

EXCEL/5月

16



story and art by RIKDO KOSHI

EXCEL SAGA 16

STORY AND ART BY
RIKDO KOSHI

EXCEL SAGA

16

3. MISSION 1
PERHAPS EVERYONE IS A SLAVE
35. MISSION 2
YOUR VOICE
65. MISSION 3
ZERO METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL
95. MISSION 4
STOMACH OF CHAOS
127. MISSION 5
THE ERA OF BLACK AND WHITE
159. MISSION 6
BEHIND SHADOW,
AN EXTRAORDINARY BEING
192. OUBLIETTE
(EXCEL SAGA BONUS SECTION)

STORY AND ART BY RIKDO KOSHI

ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY
YUKO SAWADA & CARL GUSTAV HORN

TRANSLATION
YUKO SAWADA

LETTERING & TOUCH-UP
AVRIL CASTRADA

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
NOZOMI AKASHI

EDITOR
CARL GUSTAV HORN

EDITOR IN CHIEF, BOOKS
ALVIN LU

EDITOR IN CHIEF, MAGAZINES
MARC WEIDENBAUM

VP OF PUBLISHING LICENSING
RIKA INOUE

VP OF SALES
GONZALO FERREYRA

SR. VP OF MARKETING
LIZA COPPOLA

PUBLISHER
HYOE NARITA

EXCEL SAGA ©1997 Rikdo Koshi. Originally published in Japan in 1997 by SHINSHIROMIZU CO., LTD., Tokyo. English translation rights arranged with SHINSHIROMIZU CO., LTD. Name and adapted artwork used here ©1997 VIZ Media, LLC. All rights reserved. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional and are used in no way to

EXCEL SAGA

reproduce or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77066
San Francisco, CA 94107

VIZ Media Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First printing, September 2007



www.viz.com



PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXCEL SAGA is rated **TEEN** for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains fantasy violence and mature situations.

ratings.viz.com



NO, SIR. HIS BACKGROUND REMAINS A MYSTERY TO THE PUBLIC.

IT SEEMS HE DIDN'T BOTHER TO PAD HIS RESUME.

AND... THAT'S ALL.

IT SAYS, "AFTER STUDYING ABROAD, HE ESTABLISHED A VENTURE CAPITAL COMPANY."

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ILL GROUP... WHAT DOES HIS RESUME SAY?

MISSION 1 PERHAPS EVERYONE IS A SLAVE

BESIDES, AS YOU RECALL, SIR, WE SWITCHED THE ENTIRE MUNICIPAL INFORMATION SYSTEM TO ILL. PROFESSOR SHOULD APPROVE IT.

NOTHING IS WRONG WITH THIS LAPTOP, SIR, AND IT'S VERY USER-FRIENDLY.

(through clenched teeth)
BY THE WAY, ARE YOU STILL USING AN ILL LAPTOP?

I'M SORRY, DOCTOR.

WHERE DOES ALL HIS MONEY COME FROM?

THE SOURCE OF HIS CAPITAL IS UNKNOWN, SIR, BUT HE HAS ACCOUNTS IN MULTIPLE FOREIGN BANKS.

THE INTERNET DOESN'T REALLY LEAD US TO THE INFORMATION WE SEEK, DOES IT? THAT'S WHY TERRORISM CAN NEVER BE ERADICATED.

(through gritting teeth)
YES.





AUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL
ONLY

UHL

INTERVIEWS FOR
PART-TIME STAFF
← THIS WAY



Devour MAKARONI HO-TENSOU VOL.2





I CAN'T BELIEVE THE ILL CORPORATION TURNED THOSE TWO DOWN... DESPITE THE GLOWING RESUMES I WROTE FOR THEM!

WHAT? THEY DIDN'T HIRE THEM?!



I HAVE NO ABSOLUTE PROOF, BUT PERHAPS...

IS THAT YOUR SUSPICION, MS. MOMOCHI?

THEY MAY NOT ACTUALLY BE HIRING ANYONE, SIR. PERHAPS THEY ONLY PLACED THEIR EMPLOYMENT AD IN ORDER TO LOOK LIKE A NORMAL COMPANY.



WELL, IT WASN'T AS IF I EXPECTED THEM TO CRACK CODES.

TO SPEAK FRANKLY, DOCTOR, I DOUBT THEY WOULD HAVE PROVED VERY EFFECTIVE SPIES.

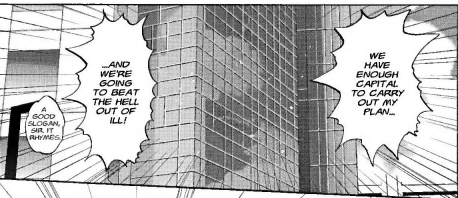
WHEN I SAID THAT MY ASS FIRST DEPLETED URANIUM!

Sur at what point did they hori-ye oot onto th' sidewalk?

WE'RE BETTER OFF STAYING AT OUR OLD JOBS ANYWAY, RIGHT?

I JUST WANTED TO FIND OUT HOW THINGS ARE RUN AT THE ILL CORPORATION.

EXACTLY. GOOD FRIENDS, EASY WORK, PLENTY OF TIME TO PLAY SADO-MASO-CHISTIC VIDEO GAMES. chuckle





IS
IT MY
IMAGINATION...



CALL
ME
"PRESIDENT."

I WAS
NOTICING
THE
SAME
THING,
SENIOR!

...OR
IS THE
STORE
NOT AS
LIVELY
AS
USUAL?



SO WE
WENT
THERE TO
SEE HOW
THE STORE
IS DOING.
PLEASE
HAVE A
LOOK AT
THIS!

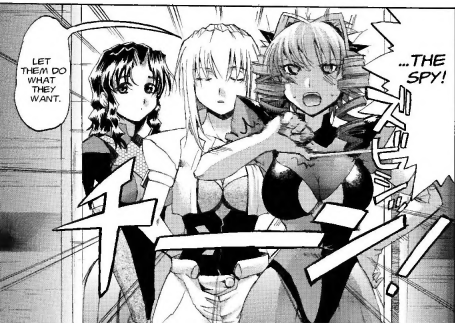
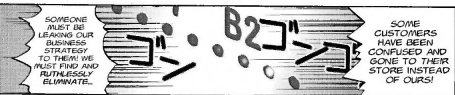
OUR
COMPETITORS
ON THE
OTHER SIDE
OF THE
STATION HAVE
COMPLETELY
RESTRUCTURED.



OH,
LOOK,
PRESIDENT.
IT
RHYMES.

"BEAT
THE HELL
OUT OF
ILL"...?

価格
申し





OUR
COMPETITORS
ARE SHOOTING
THEMSELVES
IN THE
FOOT.

B-BUT
YOU TOLD
ME THAT
CUSTOMERS
JUST LOVE
LOWER
PRICES...!



YOU
CAN
CALL ME
"SENIOR,"
NOW.

BUT...
BUT...
PRESI-
DENT
EXCEL!



YOU
REALLY
HAVE
CHANGED,
SENIOR
EXCEL.

THERE-
FORE,
WE DON'T
NEED TO
WORRY.

THEY
MAY BE
BEATING US AT
THE MOMENT,
BUT THEY'RE
DAMAGING
THEMSELVES
IN THE LONG
RUN.



SILENCE--
WE STAND
BEFORE
THE THRONE
OF LORD IL
PALAZZO!

I THINK
SHE'S JUST
MATURING
FASTER
THAN
US.

SHE
USED TO GET
HYSTERICAL
AT THE VERY
THOUGHT OF
SOMEONE
DEFYING OUR
RUTHLESS
MARCH TO
DOMINATION.



...HAIL...

OH...
UM...







EEE-
EEEEK!



OH, NO!
WH-WHO
SHOULD I
CALL? THE
PROFES-
SOR...?
THE
P-POLICE...?

IT'S ITS
A BOOD
DEADIE!
I M-MEAN
A DEAD
BODY!

HOW
CAN
ANYONE
BE SO
CRUEL...?

WHO
DID THAT
TO YOU?
WHO ARE
YOU...?



I
CAN'T
GET
IT
OFF.

I
THOUGHT
THESE
SHEARS
WOULD
WORK,
BUT...



WAIT!
MAYBE
SHE'S
JUST
ALIVE!

OH,
WOW!
HEY,
GREAT!
YOU'RE
ALIVE!



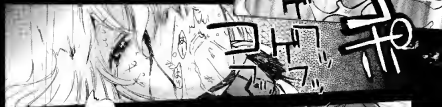
...SHE'S
GONNA
EAT
ME!!

SH-
SHE'S
COMING
BACK...
A
ZOMBIE...



KYAAAAA!

THE
CORPSE
JUST
MOVED



NOW
YOU'RE
CONSCIOUS!
THIS IS
GETTING
BETTER AND
BETTER!



I'M SORRY...
THIS IS
ALL JUST
A LITTLE
EMOTIONAL
RIGHT
NOW,
OKAY?

ANYWAY,
I'LL
GET A
DOCTOR...



I'M
stiff
SO HAPPY...
sabbi
I'M SO
HAPPY...
wait!





...SHE'S
WEARING
A LOCK
WITH A
COLLAR!



HER
CLOTHES
ARE TORN...
SHE'S
HALF-
DROWNED.



SHE
MUST
HAVE HER
REASONS
FOR NOT
WANTING
TO SEE A
DOCTOR
OR THE
POLICE!



Ethics
DANGER
Possible
Crime
Law-Abiding
Nation

BUT
WHAT
SHOULD I DO?
WHAT'S THE
INTELLIGENT
COURSE OF
ACTION?!

++ 7777

MM
MM



EAT
SLOWLY,
OK?

BE
CAREFUL,
IT'S
HOT.



..HE'S
BEEN IN AN
AWFUL
MOOD FOR
THE PAST
FEW DAYS
ANYWAY.

BUT THE
PROFESSOR
WILL BE
MAD IF HE
FINDS
OUT ABOUT
THIS..

I'LL
JUST
KEEP
HER
IN MY
ROOM!



HELP!
MY
CONSCIENCE
IS, LIKE,
TOTALLY
FLUSTERED!

REPORT HER
TO THE POLICE!
TURN HER IN!
BETRAY HER!
DELIVER HER
UP TO
PRISON
AND
TORMENT!

WHAT
WERE YOU
THINKING?
YOU CAN'T
JUST LET A
STRANGER
STAY AT THE
INSTITUTE!





FORGIVE
ME FOR
DOING
SOMETHING
BEHIND YOUR
BACK, DEAR
PROFESSOR.
UMI IS A
BAD GIRL...
...a very
bad, bad
girl.

BUT IF HE
KEEPS STAYING
IN HIS LAB LIKE
THAT, THEN MAYBE
HE WON'T FIND
OUT ABOUT HER
STAYING HERE,
EITHER.









PROFESSOR
NO
ECCHI!!



Pssst!

PUT THESE
CLOTHES
ON
HURRY UP!

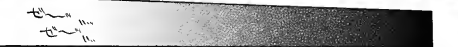
OH, MY
GOODNESS
GRACIOUS,
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
I JUST
SAID THAT.
I'M SORRY, BUT
WOULD YOU
PLEASE WAIT
OUTSIDE A
MOMENT,
SIR?

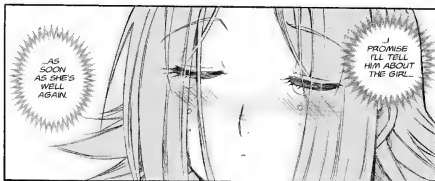


OR AT
LEAST
DON'T
DO IT
UNLESS
I'M IN
HERE!



BY WHICH
I MEAN YOU'RE A
FEVERT! I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU'D
TRY TO SPY
ON A GROWN
WOMAN! DON'T
EVER COME
IN WITHOUT
KNOCKING!







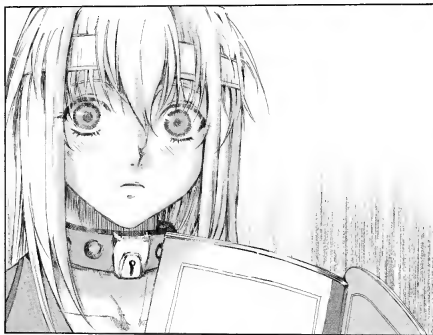
At today's press conference, this consortium of area firms announced that they would participate in the development of the reclaimed island...

...a new initiative by Fukuoka companies to create an organization which can work toward reviving the local economy without the help of city government.



...Among those behind this initiative is the chairman of the ILL group, recently honored as Fukuoka's fastest-growing corporation...





HERE
ARE THE
WEEKLY
SALES
FIGURES FOR
THE TWO
STORES,
SIR.

GREAT!
WE'RE
WINNING!

US

ILL

SOME
NEWS
JUST
CAME
IN...

...YES?

DR.
KABAPU...

SOON,
WE'LL
DRIVE
THAT
UPSTART
OUT OF
BUSINESS!

HA
HA
HA HA!
SPLEN-
DID!

WHAT
?





HOW
COULD
THIS
HAPPEN..?



...announced
that they would
participate in
the development
of the reclaimed
island...



ER, IT
APPEARS
THAT
THEIR RAPID
GROWTH HAS
RAISED THE
NEEDED
CAPITAL,
SIR.



WHY,
THIS
IS THE
BIGGEST
PUBLIC
WORKS
SCHEME
IN YEARS! A
BUNCH OF
SMALL-TIMERS
LIKE THEM
CAN'T
POSSIBLY...

I THOUGHT
THE RECLAIMED
ISLAND PROJECT
WOULD BE
CONTRACTED TO
COMPANIES
ASSOCIATED
WITH
ME!



AND THE
PREFECTURAL
COUNCIL MEN
ASSOCIATED
WITH YOU
ARE OUT OF
REACH.



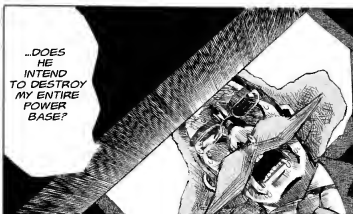
THE
MAYOR
WHOM YOU
BOUGHT
OFF HAS
BEEN
OUSTED,
DOCTOR.



HOW
COULD
WE HAVE
FAILED
TO SEE
WHAT WAS
HAPPENING?



DAMNATION!
WE ALREADY
LOST THE
EXPRESSWAY
CONTRACT...
THIS IS MUCH
MUCH
BIGGER!



...DOES
HE
INTEND
TO DESTROY
MY ENTIRE
POWER
BASE?



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT'S
HAPPENING...



HMPH. IT
SEEMS HE
WISHES THAT I
HAVE VISITED
UPON OTHERS
IN THE PAST.

THE ILL
ELECTRONIC
STORE HAS
BEEN
NOTHING
BUT A MEANS
FOR THAT
MAN TO RUIN
ME. IS THAT
IT?



IT WOULD
APPEAR SO, SIR.
WE'VE MADE A
LOT OF ADVANCE
INVESTMENT
ASSUMING WE'D GET
THE CONTRACT FOR
THE ISLAND PROJECT.
SOME OF YOUR
COMPANIES
MAY FACE
BANKRUPTCY.



...YOU
RUN
THIS
CITY.

YOU
KNOW,
THEY SAY
THAT...



TO
TAKE
AWAY ALL
THAT
I OWN?
BUT THAT
DOESN'T
ANSWER THE
QUESTION.

IS
IT TO
CRUSH
ME,
THEN?



IT'S NO
MATTER.

MY
APOLOGIES,
LORD ILL
PALAZZO.

UWL
OUR
SALES
WERE
LESS THAN
THEIRS.

...WHY
?!



...I
HOPE
HE'S
HAVING A
WONDER-
FUL
TIME.

DO
YOU
THINK
THAT
OLD
MAN IS
HOPPING
AROUND
BY NOW?



YES,
MY
LORD?

MS.
EXCEL.



...VERY
WELL.
I AM AN
EXPERT AT
CRUSHING
MEN BY
LEGAL
MEANS...

I FIND
THIS
RATHER
AMUSING...



AND
YOU WILL
FEEL THE
STING OF
THEM...IL
PALAZZO

DOC-
TOR...

...BUT
I KNOW
SHARPER
METHODS
AS
WELL

END MISSION 1



EXCEL'S AGA





UMI!
SHOW
ME
YOUR
SECRET--

MISSION 2
YOUR VOICE

△△△△△△△△△△



IF I MAY ASK, WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO REACH HIM, SIR?

WHY DOES SHIOUJI NEVER ANSWER THE PHONE?

I WANT TO TALK TO HIS FATHER, TENMANGU.

GOJYOU SHIOUJI IS NOT CAPABLE OF REMANUFACTURING THE CORE OF ROFFONMATSU BY HIMSELF.

ARE YOU THINKING OF ORDERING A NEW ONE, SIR?

I'M VERY FRUSTRATED THAT ROPON-MATSU HASN'T BEEN FOUND YET.

777

77

BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS STILL MISSING, DOCTOR?



IF WE COULD LOCATE WHERE IT IS, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH A MEANS TO RETRIEVE IT.

MY HOPE IS THAT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO TRACE ROPPON-MATSU.



NEVER-
THE-
LESS
TENMANGU
IS THE
EXPERT
ON THE
CORE
SYSTEM

THEN
WHY
CALL...

...AND
ACTUALLY...
I DOUBT
THAT
EVEN
TENMANGU
WOULD BE
ABLE TO DO
THAT.



NOT ONLY YOUR ALLIES IN THE PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT, BUT MOST OF THE CITY ASSEMBLYMEN ASSOCIATED WITH YOU HAVE BEEN THROWN OUT OF OFFICE.

YES, DOCTOR. I'M AFRAID YOU ARE RIGHT.

...IS FAR AHEAD OF US IN THE PUBLIC RELATIONS WAR.

I MUST ADMIT THE ILL GROUP...



ER... SPIES, SIR?

I'M GOING BACK TO MY PLAN OF INSERTING SPIES INTO HIS ORGANIZATION!

ANYWAY, I MUST DO SOMETHING QUICKLY TO GET THE MEDIA ON OUR SIDE!

YES! ALLOCATE SOME RESOURCES FOR HIRING SPIES!



CURSE IT! THE MAN IS MUCH SHREWERD THAN I THOUGHT!



MIWA?
PARCEL?

MS.
MIWA
HAS
SENT
YOU THIS
PARCEL,
SIR.

I
HOPE
IT'S
NOT A
BOMB!



UH.
OH,
YES.
ONE
MOMENT,
PLEASE.

ANY-
THING
ELSE?

harumph
NOW I'M
STARTING
TO BE
SCARED
BY MY
OWN
JOKE...

I
THOUGHT
YOU
WERE
SERIOUS.

ㄱ

#

I WAS
MERELY
JOKING.
OPEN
IT.

ㄱ

#

SHOULD
WE
HAVE IT
CHECKED,
SIR?



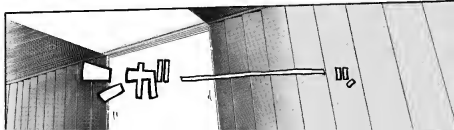
WELL
THEN,
PLAY
IT.

IT
SAYS
IT'S A
MOVIE.



SHE
DIDN'T
ENCLOSE
ANY
MESSAGE?
PERHAPS IT
CONTAINS
SOME
SORT OF
RESEARCH
DATA.

IT'S
JUST
A DVD,
SIR.



ㄱ

DOO







...THAT
I SAW
THE
BACK
OF MY
BELOVED...

IT
WAS
IN A
PORT
TOWN
WHERE THE
FOGHORNS
ECHOED...

WE
MUST
DETERMINE
THE
LOCATION
IMMEDIATELY!

F-FIND OUT
WHERE THIS
FILM WAS
SHOT!

A
PORT
TOWN?

...HOW
MUCH
I LOVE
MY
HUSBAND!

I
BEGAN
TO RUN
TO HIM,
SCREAM-
ING...

WAIT FOR ME, DARLING!

...?

MIWA REPORT

つづ

TO
BE
CONTIN-
UED!



I CAN
NEVER TELL
IF SHE'S
LAUGHING AT
ME, OR REALLY
TRYING TO
TELL ME
SOMETHING...

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
TO
THINK!

I THINK
SOME
OF THE
SCENES
WERE
COPIED FROM
OTHER
MOVIES?

WHAT
DID
YOU
THINK
OF IT,
SIR?



DAMN
IT!

IS
SHE
SERIOUS,
OR
NOT...?







Important...
Essential...
Highest priority...

SOME-
BODY...

hmm...
?

...WHA
?

...IS
WAITING
FOR ME...

SOME-
BODY...

...WHERE
?

I'M
GOING...

MAYBE
SOMETHING
ON TV
SCARED HER,
AND SHE
JUMPED
OUT THE
WINDOW
TO
ESCAPE!

CALM
DOWN!
THERE'S
GOT TO
BE A
REASONABLE
EXPLANATION
FOR THIS!

ACK!
I MUST
FIND
HER!

but
whereeere?!

HOW
FAR
COULD
SHE HAVE
GONE IN
BARE
FEET,
THOUGH?

HMM?





YES,
OF
THE
OLD
DAYS
WHEN...

THIS
PLACE
BRINGS
BACK
SO
MANY
MEMORIES
OF
THE
PAST...



YES,
WE
TOOK
SHELTER
UNDER
THIS
BRIDGE.

IT
CAME
BACK
TO
ME
ALL
OF
A
SUDDEN.



NEVER,
EVER...
HUH..?

...LOOK
AT
THAT...



?

YES,
DAYS
TO
WHICH
I
NEVER,
EVER
WANT
TO
GO
BACK
AGAIN!!

THOSE
DAYS
WERE
FUN
IN
A
WAY,
THOUGH

...LIFE
WAS
TERRIBLE!







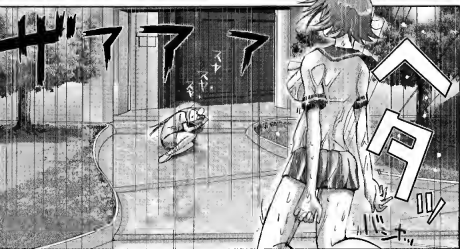




HER
WOUNDS
AREN'T
EVEN
HEALED
YET...

...OUT
IN THIS
SOAKING
RAIN.

THE
POOR
GIRL...



I'M SO
G-GLAD
YOU'RE
BACK,
BUT...

OH...
UMI?

A-ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT...?
W-WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
OUTSIDE
LIKE THIS?
YOU'LL CATCH YOUR
DEATH
OF COLD!

I'LL
GET YOU
SOMETHING
TO EAT, BUT
I WANT YOU
TO TAKE A
WARM BATH
FIRST,
OK?

UH-
HUH...
I'M
HUNGRY.

LET'S
GO ON
IN,
OKAY?

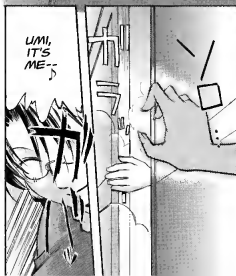


UMI-
CHAAAAN!
WHAT'S
FOR
DINNER?!

MOMMY'S
HOME!



HMM?
JUST
ME HERE?
THAT'S NO
FUN.



UMI,
IT'S ME--



HM-
HM!



AH,
UMI'S
IN THE
BATH.



YOU MISUNDERSTAND, MOTHER. WE WEREN'T DOING WHAT YOU THOUGHT.

"Five minutes?"

WHY DON'T I JUST COME BACK IN THREE HOURS? OR WOULD ONE HOUR DO? HOW ABOUT FIVE MINUTES?

I'M SO SORRY, SON. I'M BEING INSENSITIVE.

ニ
ヨ
キ









RIGHT.
LET'S
GIVE
THIS
GIRL
A
NAME...

WE
WERENT
DOING
WHAT
YOU
THINK

THIS
ISNT
YOU
AND
UMI'S
PRIVATE
LOVE
NEST,
DARLING.



WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN
BY
"HOW
ABOUT?"
WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN
BY
"OKAY?"
YOU'RE
JUST
MAKING
THIS
STUFF
UP!

...HOW
ABOUT
TERIHA
SHIOUJI,
OKAY?



...JUST
EXCUSE
ME
FOR
A
MOMENT,
WILL
YOU?
I
HAVE
A
PHONE
CALL

...UMI'S
BEEN
HIDING
HER
IN
THIS
HOUSE
FOR
A
WEEK.
I
DONT
KNOW
WHO
SHE
IS,
OR...

LOOK--
YOU
CANT--
I
MEAN

OH,
HOW
WONDER-
FUL!

AREN'T
YOU
HAPPY,
UMI?
YOU'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN
AN
ONLY
CHILD.

NOW
IT'S
LIKE
YOU'VE
GOT
A
SISTER!

WHY
DO YOU
NEVER
ANSWER
THE
PHONE?

HELLO?
YES, I'M
SORRY, BUT
I'M VERY
BUSY AT
THE--

LOOK,
WILL
YOU
PLEASE
HOLD
ON FOR A
MOMENT?
YOU'VE
CALLED
AT A VERY
INCONVEN-
IENT TIME!

UUN...
EXCUSE
ME!

TELL
KABAFU
I'M
NOT
HOME,
OKAY?

I'M
GOING
OUT. SEE
YOU
LATER.

YEAH.

HUH?
♡

I'M
SO
HAPPY
FOR
YOU,
TERIHA!

ASK
HER
ABOUT
THE
MOVIE...
HELLO?
HELLO?

IS
YOUR
MOTHER
THERE?

CELE-
BRATING
WHAT?

IT
SOUNDS
LIKE
THEY'RE
HAVING A
PARTY.

There's a hint o' fall in th' air, eh lads!

MORN-
ING.

HI
THERE.

AND
AIN'T
IT A
LOVELY
MORNING?

GOOD
MORNING,
EVERY-
ONE!

HOW
WAS
THE
JOB
YESTER-
DAY?

GOTTA
SAY IT
WAS A
FULL
DAY'S
WORK.

I WAS
PRETTY
BEAT
TOO.

Ah cannae
help but feel
that's th' sort
o' work wor-
k department should
hav' been
doin' ool
along like!

CITY ENVIRONMENT

WELL,
MAYBE
YOU
GUYS. IN
MY CASE,
THEY JUST
START
ME UP
AGAIN!

YEAH,
OTHERWISE,
WE'RE GOING
TO FREEZE
TO DEATH.

Th' new
office is a
liril flimsy,
mind.



MISSION 3 ZERO METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL

GOOD
MORNING,
DR.
KABAPU!





Mornin'
an
oal!

GOOD
MORNING!

GOOD
MORNING,
MS.
MOMOGHI!

GOOD
MORNING,
EVERYONE.

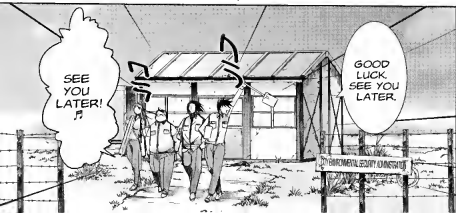
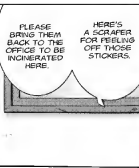
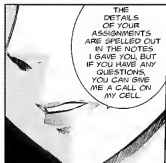
I HAVE
YOUR
ASSIGNMENTS
FOR
TODAY.

WE'D LIKE
MR. IWATA
AND MR.
SUMIYOSHI TO
CLEAN THE
GUTTERS ON
5TH STREET
IN MAIZURI.

ALL
RIGHT
!

Aal
reet.







HAS IT
REALLY
ONLY BEEN
TWO
MONTHS...
SINCE THINGS
BEGAN TO
TURN
AGAINST
US?



I
DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW
THINGS
HAVE
COME TO
THIS

NO
NEED TO
APOLOGIZE...
YOU'RE
DOING
THE BEST
YOU
CAN.

OH,
NO
NEED.

I'M
SORRY
IT'S WEAK,
SIR...WE'RE
HAVING
TO REUSE
THE BAG.

FIRST, THE
COUNCILMEN
ASSOCIATED
WITH YOU
BEGAN
LOSING
THEIR
POSITIONS



IT
FEELS
LIKE
IT WAS
SO LONG
AGO.

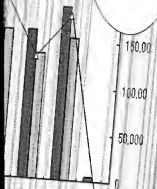
YOU
BORROWED
HEAVILY
TO OBTAIN
THAT DISCOUNT
ELECTRONICS
STORE TO
COMPETE
WITH ILL...
THEN IT
TOO WAS
SOLD OFF.

I SOLD
MY REAL
ESTATE
TO COVER
THE LOSS...
BUT IT
WASN'T
ENOUGH.

THEN
THE
STOCK
IN MY
PAPER
COMPANY
PLUMMETED.

FOR
SALE

OUT OF
BUSINESS



**CORRUPTION
BID-RIGGING ARRESTS**

SCANDAL AT CITY HALL

95% OF PUBLIC CONTRACTS LINKED TO OFFICIAL

HOW MANY MILLIONS UNACCOUNTED FOR?!

**TAXPAYER OUTRAGE GROWS
AT NEW REVELATIONS**

THE
FINAL
BLOW WAS
WHEN YOUR
FINANCIAL
DETAILS
WERE
LEAKED
TO THE
PRESS.

I USED
TO TAKE IT
FOR GRANTED
THAT I COULD
MANIPULATE
THE MEDIA.
NOW THEY'RE
JUST AS ASSURED
IN REVEALING MY
WRONGDOINGS.

IT
IS STILL
UNKNOWN
WHO
LEAKED
THE
INFORMATION.

I'VE
LOST
EVERYTHING

AND
THEY
SHOW NO
SIGN OF
LETTING
UP.

A-ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT,
SIR
?!
hakk
hakkkk

...AS
LONG AS
I'VE LIVED,
I'VE NEVER
SEEN
ANYTHING
LIKE THIS.
HA HA...

I'VE
BEEN
BLESSED
WITH A
LONG
LIFE,
BUT...





...Do
ye not
think we
should
quit,
Iwata?



QUIT
WHAT?



Well, oh shouldn't
wundo at that,
since th' Dokta's had
such a, erm, profoond
influence on ya life.

Yer
still
loyal
t' him?

...ALTHOUGH
I SORTA MISS
THE FUNKY
SUITS, THE
HEROIC
EXPLOITS,
BLOWING
STUFF UP AT
RANDOM
THINGS
LIKE
THAT.

WELL, I
DUNNO. MS.
MOMOGI'S
WORKING
SO HARD.
BESIDES, I'M
KINDA ENJOYING
MYSELF NOW,
CLEANING
GUTTERS..



Erm...

Wor
job.

HUH?
WHY?



It's
quieted
doon
for th'
murmur
but ye
knaa...

...sooner
or
later thez
gaan t'
lorn wor
names,
too.

Whorraboot
th' media
fuss then?
Ah mean it's
in aal the
tableeds.



DID
YOU
GUYS READ
THE PAPER
TODAY?!

HEY?
WHO
ARE
YOU?

CITY
ORDERS?
WE HAVE TO
VACATE THE
BUILDING?



SEIZED

YOUR
BELONGINGS
WILL BE
PAVED
OVER,
THEN PACKED
CARELESSLY
AND MAILED
TO YOUR
FORWARDING
ADDRESS!



We're
lucky
thez wuz
noe
reporters
about
when they
moyed us
out o' th'
apartment.

WHAT
?



I'M HANGIN' OUT AT PROF. SHIOUJI'S PLACE.
I can now honestly brag that I've been sleeping in Koppo-matsu I's bed.

Where are ye stayin' noo?

Ah foond anothaa place t' live a few days past.



Well, ye need regulear maintenance sur I suppose it's convenient, innit.

YEAH, I GUESS SO.



AND NOW THAT'S WHAT WE'VE FINALLY GOT. NO MORE SILLY OUTFITS. NO MORE CRAWLING INTO SEWERS AND ATTACKING DEPARTMENT STORES.

MAN, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU, WAY BACK WHEN WE FIRST APPLIED TO WORK HERE? I SAID I WANTED A NICE, STABLE GOVERNMENT JOB.

QUIT THIS JOB? WHY?

Am ah th' aanly one what wants t' quit?

...BESIDES
I HAVE
SOMETHING
I'M TRYING TO
ACCOMPLISH

AND
BETTER
WORKING OUT
HERE ON
OUR OWN THAN
RE-ASSIGNED
TO SOME OTHER
IDIOT BACK AT
CITY HALL

LOOK,
I DON'T
GIVE A DAMN
ABOUT THAT
OLD FOOL, BUT
MS. MOMOCHI'S
GOT HER HEAD
ON STRAIGHT.
SHE GIVES YOU
ORDERS, YOU
FEEL THERE'S
A POINT
TO THEM.

I'm
feeling
hot...

I THINK
I WANT TO
STAY ON
A LITTLE
LONGER..
AT LEAST
UNTIL THE
SITUATION
IMPROVES
SOMEWHAT.

BESIDES,
I WOULD
FEEL
GUILTY
IF I
DESERTED
MOMOCHI
NOW.

I'M
GETTING
PAID A
DECENT
SALARY
AS A
PUBLIC
SERVANT.

I LIKE MY
PRESENT JOB
MUCH BETTER
THAN THE
MEANINGLESS
OFFICE WORK
WE USED
TO DO.

...I SEE HIM
HANGING IN A
FOREST...LEAVING
BEHIND A SUICIDE
NOTE...FILLED WITH
BITTER WORDS FOR
US...NAMING NAMES.
I SEE THE RIGID
CORPSE WITH THE
NOTE CLENCHED
IN HIS HAND.

IVE
GOT THIS
IMAGE IN
MY MIND
IF WE
ABANDON
DR.
KABAPU
NOW...







WAIT A MINUTE...

ALL RIGHT!



I'LL JOIN YOU THEN.

WELL, IF YOU INSIST...

HEY, MS. MOMOCHI, WHAT DR. KABAFU SAID IS RIGHT!

BUT... BUT...

YEAH! YOU'RE WORKING HARDER THAN ANY OF US!

HUSH!



OH, SORRY, IT'S YOU, TERIHA! IT'S ME, IWATA!!

CLICK! HI, UMI!!!

YES.
YES.

I
UNDER-
STAND.

TH-THIS
IS
AUNTIE
MIWA'S
FAVORITE
VASE...

KYAAAAAAAAAAAA!
THE
VASE!
I BROKE
THE
VASE!

あ
あ
あ
あ
あ

HE
SAID
HE
WAS
GOING
TO
GO
OUT
WITH
HIS
FRIENDS
AND
THAT
HE'D
BE
HOME
LATE.

MR...
IWATA.

WHO
WAS
IT?

THANKS
FOR
GETTING
THE
PHONE,
TERIHA...
snif
I cut my
finger...



Y-YES...
THANK
YOU.

ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT?

OWWWW...

OH-H-
HHHHH!
HOW WILL
I EXPLAIN
TO
AUNT
MIWA?



UM...
STAY IN
HERE
AND
WATCH
TV.

WELL...
WHAT
DO YOU
DO ALL
DAY?

THANKS.
BUT
I DON'T
WANT
TO.

UM...
HEY...
I'M SORRY
THAT I CAN'T
BE HOME
ALL DAY
ANYMORE.
I'VE GOT
SCHOOL
AGAIN.

YOU
KNOW, I
THINK IT'S
OKAY IF
YOU GO
OUT
NOW.





I WAS TRYING
TO HELP YOU
KEEP FUNDING
THIS LAB BY
GETTING A
LITTLE WORK
FROM THE
UNIVERSITY.

YOU
DO
KNOW
WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO YOUR
PATRON,
DON'T
YOU?



UM...

I'M A
STRUGGLING
SINGLE
MOTHER.

WE
AREN'T
RICH
ENOUGH
TO BE ABLE
TO FEED AN
UNPAID
GUEST,
ALL
RIGHT?



SINCE
THEN HE'S
CLOISTERED
HIMSELF AWAY
IN HIS LAB.
THE POOR
PROFESSOR
HAS NO
TIME TO
SOCIALIZE.

OF
COURSE
I CAN
HANDLE IT,
MOTHER!
JUST
LEAVE ME
ALONE...

ALL
RIGHT
!

WONDER
IF YOU
CAN
HANDLE
IT.

THIS
JOB
WOULD
BE A
DELICIOUS
SAINT
CUPCAKE
FOR ME,
BUT...

ggle





YOU MEAN...
HEY,
ARE YOU
STARTING TO
REMEMBER
ABOUT
THINGS
?!

HUH
?

REALLY
?

I'M IN
LOVE
WITH
SOMEONE,
TOO.



...I
KNOW
I'M IN
LOVE.

NO...
BUT...



TERIHA,
I HOPE...

...YOU'LL
SEE
HIM
AGAIN
SOON.

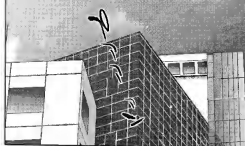


WHOA
!



WHAT
HAPPENED
TO
HIM?





I WONDER
WHAT
(CHAIRMAN)
LORD IL PALAZZO
AND (PRESIDENT)
SENIOR EXCEL
WANT THIS
BUILDING
FOR?

THE
MEDIA
MADE
A BIG
FUSS
OVER THIS
PURCHASE.

HAVE
WE
BOUGHT
THIS
PLACE
ONLY TO
DEMOLISH
IT?

DIDN'T WE
ONCE SNEAK
IN HERE?
IT WAS
SOMETHING
ABOUT
FLOOR
WAXING.

KEEP OUT

IT
HAD
BEEN
PUT
UP FOR
AUCTION
TO PAY
THE
CITY'S
DEBTS..

..WE'RE
JUST
SWEEPING
EVERYTHING
OUT.

WE'VE
BECOME
SO
POWERFUL,
SENIOR
HYATT!

THIS
WAS OUR
ENEMY'S
HEAD-
QUARTERS.

...A
SYMBOLIC
GESTURE.

ACQUIRING
THIS
PLACE...



YOUR
REPORT

YES, MR.
CHAIRMAN.

THE
CONTRACTORS
FOR THE
SUBURBAN
REDEVELOPMENT
PROJECT
HAVE BEEN
SELECTED.



...YOU
CAN
SEE THE
WHOLE
CITY
FROM
UP
HERE.

LOOK...





ANYONE
LOOKING
OUT
ON THIS
VISTA...
WOULD
BECOME
CORRUPT.

WHAT
AN
UNIN-
SPRING
VIEW.



BUT
IF YOU
ARE NOT
CORRUPTED
COMPLETE-
LY...

...THIS
MIGHT
NOT BE
THE END
OF YOU
YET.



END MISSION 3





WH...
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

MISSION 4
STOMACH OF CHAOS





YEAH, IT
LITERALLY
HURTS.

...It's
painful
t'-see
'im noo.



Huh?
How?

WATA,
QUIT
TRYING
TO HELP
US. YOU'RE
JUST MAKING
THINGS
WORSE!

It
must
hev
been
o geet
shock
t' 'im.

HIS
HEALTH
HAS GOTTEN
EVEN WORSE
SINCE THAT
NEWS ABOUT
CITY HALL.

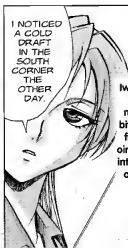


WE
DON'T
HAVE THE
MONEY
FOR THAT.

Would
it not be
bettoh
t' just
rebuild
th' hurl
thing
but?

HEY

#



I NOTICED
A COLD
DRAFT
IN THE
SOUTH
CORNER
THE
OTHER
DAY.

Iwato's
felt
norra
bit o' th'
frigid
oir blum
into wor
office.

WHY
DON'T
YOU
TAKE CARE
OF THE
GARBAGE
INSTEAD?

HOW?
LOOK!
YOU JUST
KNOCKED
A BIG
HOLE IN
THE
WALL!





Spending?
Hurm.

THAT'S
EASY FOR
HIM TO SAY...
ESPECIALLY
WHEN HE'S
GOT NO MONEY.
DO THEY EVEN
PAY HIM ANY
MORE?

AT
UNCERTAIN
TIMES LIKE
THESE, WE
SHOULD BE
SPENDING
WHAT WE
HAVE AND
LIVING IT
UP!

WHERE
?

REALLY?
YOU
WANNA?

Shall we
not
gerroot
an' ga
t' that
place
ye tell us
about th'
otha
day?

How
lwata.

CAREER
WOMEN
ARE SO
SEXY!

WE
HAVE
A VERY
FULL
SCHEDULE
TODAY,
AS
USUAL.

THAT IS
ALL. THE
MEETING
IS OVER.

会議室
CONFERENCE
ROOM



LET'S
ALL
WORK
REALLY
HARD!

THE
NEXT
AGENDA
ITEM
IS AN
INTERVIEW
ON THE
STATE OF
THE LOCAL
ECONOMY.

OH,
YES.



THERE'S
NO NEED
FOR US
TO EXPOSE
OURSELVES
ANY FURTHER.

HMP
WONT
WE BE
APPEARING
IN PUBLIC
ANYMORE
?

CHAIRMAN
IL
PALAZZO
WILL DEAL
PERSONALLY
WITH THE
MEDIA
FROM
NOW ON.

REALLY,
MS.
PRESIDENT
?

PLEASE
TURN
DOWN ALL
REQUESTS
TO
INTERVIEW
ME FROM
NOW ON.



SUCH THINGS ARE ABSOLUTELY UNNECESSARY.

YES! I'M TALKING AN ILL EXECUTIVE GLAMOUR BLOG, PRESIDENT!

BUT SENIOR... I MEAN, PRESIDENT-- THERE'S WHOLE PR CURVES... I MEAN, ANGLES, WE HAVEN'T TRIED YET! LISTEN, WHAT ABOUT A PHOTO SHOOT OF US IN VARIOUS DESIGNER OUTFITS?



GASP... YOU'VE REMINDED ME OF THINGS I TRIED TO FORGET.

THINKING

UNLIKE OUR LORD, THE THREE OF US HAVE EXTENSIVE CRIMINAL RECORDS.

WELL...



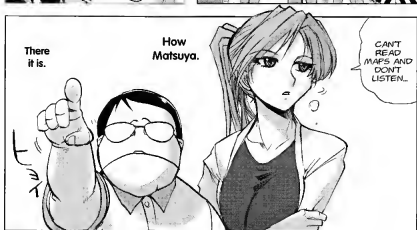
HUH? SENIOR HYATT, I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

LORD ILL PALAZZO IS IN A DIFFERENT POSITION THAN US.

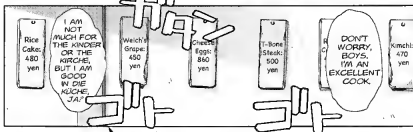
CEO OF THE MONTH

UM... YEAH... IT'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE...

ARE WE THERE YET?









FIRST...
YOU WILL
ANSWER
MY
QUESTIONS.

LET'S SEE...
"FRIENDSHIP
SET, OUR
HOUSE SPECIAL
5,000 YEN? OR,
IF YOU FINISH
EATING IN
30 MINUTES,
NO CHARGE."

I SAY
THIS PHRASE,
ALTHOUGH IN
ACTUALITY IT
IS ONE QUESTION.
ARE YOU TRULY
PREPARED
FOR ME
TO SERVE
THIS
DISH?!

...ARE
YOU
GUYS
SERIOUS?



Both
Sumiyoshi
and I are
naturally
competitive

Aye.



It'll be
'nowt
't ett it.

ARE YOU
SURE
ABOUT
THIS? IT
LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
GOING
TO BE
A HUGE
MEAL.

SO
THAT'S
WHY YOU
WANTED
TO COME
TO THIS
RESTA-
URANT.



JA,
ZWEI
FREUND-
SCHAFTS-
KOMBO,
BITTE.

FEAR-
LESSNESS
IS THE
SPECIAL
PRIVILEGE
OF
YOUNG
MEN.

LARGE
STIR-
FRIED
NOODLE
WITH
OWELET
FOR
ME

TO
LIKE A
REGULAR
ONONO-
MEYAN

A geet
pile o' food
an' for free.
Ye canaat
beat that.

HUH?
WHY?

BUT
IWATA...
I MEAN,
HE DOESN'T
EVEN
REALLY
TASTE
THINGS
ANY MORE...

Not to
mention
his entering this
challenge is
slightly unfair.













MMM...
ONE
WOMAN
HAS DONE
SO.

HAS
ANYONE
EVER
FINISHED
EATING
THIS?

REALLY?



HE
IS THE
REGULAR
TAKERU
KOBAYASHI,
YES?

THE
SKINNY
ONE, HE
DOES
WELL.

HE'S
CHEAT-
ING.



PULL
UP
YOUR
FACE...

...IT'S
SAG-
GING.



HER HAIR
WAS LONG,
BRAIDED
LIKE A GIRL OF
THE ALPS, YET
STREAKED WITH
BLEACH LIKE
THE SKUNK
OF PARIS
ABSOLUTELY
FICKEN
GORGEOUS

UM...

SHE
WAS TALL
AND HAD THE
GROSSE KISTE,
HOW DO YOU
SAY, THE
GREAT
BREASTS,
SO LIKE THE
ZEPPELIN.

SHE WAS
SPECKY, WITH
THE EYEGASSES.
HER GLARE WAS
FIERCE BEHIND
THEM. FIERY,
OF THE INFERNO.
I COULD SEE
SHE HAD
ENDURED
MUCH.



I KNOW
ONE WOMAN
WHO MIGHT
FIT YOUR
DESCRIPTION,
BUT...
...it couldn't
have possibly
been her...

...IT
WAS
ALMOST
FRIGHTEN-
ING.

SHE
ATE IT
ALL IN 20
MINUTES...



OH,
YEAB!
DAB
MAGES
BURFEG
ZENSE!

Well scarf
ah reckon if a
voluptuaz lass
gulp could stick
this lot doon
'er neck, how
can ah not?



YEAH,
I'VE
HEARD
THAT,
TOO.

COME
TO THINK
OF IT,
MOST
EATING
CONTEST
CHAMPIONS
ARE SLIM.









DO YOU SUR-
RENDER,
LIKE THE
FRENCH?



YOU'LL
BE
JOINING
SUMIYOSHI
IF YOU
KEEP
EATING...

WATA-
KUN?
You'd
better
give
up.

REMEMBER--
IF YOU
CANNOT
FINISH,
YOU MUST
PAY.

...THE
SUPREME
MOMENT
OF
STRUGGLE!

THIS
IS YOUR
MEAL
OF
SACRIFICE



TWENTY-
NINE
MINUTES

DUMMY.
Both
of
you.

NAH, ON
SECOND
THOUGHT,
GO FOR
IT, IWATA.

TWENTY-
EIGHT
MINUTES!



...UND
SO!





YOU
ATE
IT
ALL.



LIKE
A GAS
MAIN
BURSTING

SCHADE!
WHAT
WAS
THAT
SOUND?



TURN
AROUND
SLOWLY.

YOU
KNOW,
I CAN'T
QUITE
PUT MY
FINGER
ON IT.



...SMELLS
KIND
OF...

AN
EXPLOSION
...



IT
WAS
REALLY
GREAT
!!

...



I
LEARNED
TODAY...

THAT
THERE
ARE
STILL
SUCH
MEN
IN THE
WORLD.



IWATA-KUN,
COME ON!
YOU'D
BETTER
GO BACK TO
SHOUJI'S
PLACE AND
LET HIM...
HAVE A
LOOK AT
YOU.

HALT!
I WISH
TO TAKE
A PICTURE
WITH YOU
GUYS, COM-
MEMORATING

SORRY,
WE'RE
IN A
HURRY.
EXCUSE
US!



FAREWELL
TO YOU...
THE
BRAVEST
OF THE
BRAVE.

IN
YOUR
HONOR,
I SHALL
CEASE
SERVING
THIS MOST
SPECIAL
DISH.

For
now.

--DAMNIT!
I COULD
HAVE
EATEN
MORE
!!

I
KNOW
YOU'RE
BUSY,
BUT YOU
SHOULD
TAKE A
BREAK
AND EAT
THESE--

sniff
sniff...

DO
YOU
SMELL
SOMETHING
STRANGE,
TERIHA?!

WHAT?
HAVE YOU
EXAMINED
THE LOGIC
OF THAT
STATEMENT,
IWATA?!
IF YOU
KNOW
YOU'RE
GOING TO
LOSE A
BATTLE,
DON'T
FIGHT
IT!

BECAUSE
MEN
SOMETIMES
HAVE TO
FIGHT
EVEN
WHEN
THEY KNOW
THEY'RE
GOING TO
LOSE!

WHY
DO YOU
HAVE TO
BRING ME
SUCH A
STUPID
PROBLEM
WHEN I'M SO
BUSY?!

I'M SO
UPSET!
PROFESSOR,
PLEASE
DOUBLE THE
CAPACITY
OF MY
STOMACH!

YEAH,
THAT'S
IT.

...WORCESTER
SAUCE?

KIND
OF LIKE...

お好み焼き

友

Hurrah, die
Freundschaftskombo
ist alle!

Friendship Set
is no longer
available.
May we entice
you to try
our stir-fried
noodles?

OPEN

HMM?

EXCEL'S AG





WELL,
YOU'LL
GET NONE!
HAVE YOU
FOR-
GOTTEN
WHO
APPOINTED
YOU
CORONER
?

OH,
IT'S AN
EXPLANA-
TION
YOU
WANT,
IS IT?

I WANT
TWO
BLANK
DEATH
CERTIFICATES...
AND
NO
QUESTIONS!!

MISSION 5
THE ERA OF
BLACK AND WHITE



THE
MEDIA?
WHY, IT'S
NOTHING
BUT MY
WHORE!



YOU
SHOULD
HAVE
SHOWN
ME THIS
RESPECT
BEFORE.



BLACKMAIL?
NO, HE
WON'T
GET THE
CHANCE
TO BUY
THESE
PHOTOS.



I'VE
ALREADY
SOLD THEM
TO THE
TABLOIDS.
LET IT BE A
LESSON
TO HIM.



WILL
MONEY
SOLVE
THE
PROBLEM?



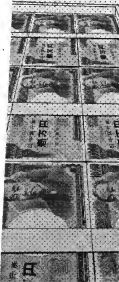
BECAUSE
I DON'T
MIND
SPENDING
SOME
MONEY.



AND
SPEAKING
OF WHICH,
PROCURE
WOMEN
FOR THE
ENTIRE
STAFF
OF THAT
NEWSPAPER!



I'LL
NEED
CERTAIN
FAVORS
TO PROVE
YOUR TRUE
SINCERITY,
COUNCILMAN.







PARDON
ME, BUT...

AND
AS I
ENTERED
THE PLACE,
MY LOW
EXPECTATIONS
HADN'T
BEEN
RAISED
A WHIT.

I HAD
AN APPOINT-
MENT...

I SAY,
IS ANY-
ONE
HERE?

MY NAME
IS KABAFU.
I CALLED
YOU BEFORE.



EH?
ER...

OUT
OF THE
WAY!
SHE'S
COMING
THROUGH!

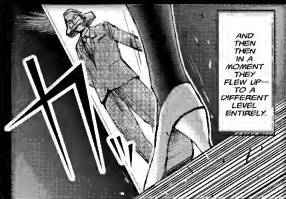


I WASN'T
EXPECTING
MUCH WHEN
I WAS HANDED
A REPORT
ABOUT A MAN
WHO WAS
FROM AN
ACADEMIC FAMILY,
BUT CURRENTLY
ADrift...
A VAGABOND
SCIENTIST.

AT
THAT TIME,
I WAS SUPERVISING
THE RESEARCH
ACTIVITIES OF
UNIVERSITIES AND
CORPORATIONS,
AND I'D LEARNED
THAT THE LEVEL
OF THEIR WORK
WAS FAR FROM
WHAT I HAD
EXPECTED.



LOOKING
BACK,
IT
SEEMS
I WAS
DESTINED
TO MEET
HIM.

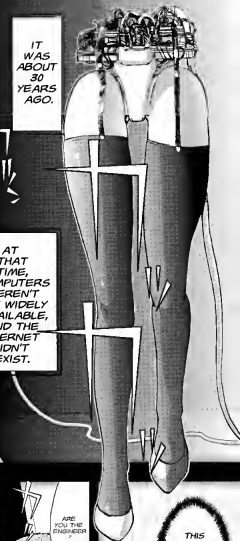


AND
THEN
THEN
IN A
MOMENT
THEY
FLEW UP...
TO A
DIFFERENT
LEVEL
ENTIRELY.



IT
WAS
ABOUT
30
YEARS
AGO.

AT
THAT
TIME,
COMPUTERS
WEREN'T
YET WIDELY
AVAILABLE,
AND THE
INTERNET
DIDN'T
EXIST.



AMAZING

WHY
HAVEN'T
YOU
ANNOUNCED
THIS
INVENTION?
IT'S
AMAZING.



ARE
YOU THE
ENGINEER?

THIS
THING IS
WALKING
PERFECTLY
ON
TWO
LEGS.

AND
ITS
MOTION
IS SO
SMOOTH.



SHE
DOESN'T
FLATTER
AND SHE
DOESN'T
DANCE.

THAT DAY,
I VISITED A
MAN NAMED
TENMANGU
SHIOUJI.

THIS
THING IS
MERELY
WALKING.
WHAT'S SO
AMAZING
ABOUT
IT?

AND
SHE'S
ONLY
FROM THE
WAIST
DOWN.

I SEE
THAT
YOU'RE A
MAN WHO
ADHERES
TO THE
DICTATES
OF TASTE

YES,
BUT
ALL MY
FAVORITE
PARTS
ARE
BELOW
IT.

SURELY
THE HEAD
WOULDN'T
COST
MORE
THAN
THE
WHOLE
BODY.

THE HEAD
WILL BE VERY
EXPENSIVE,
SO I'M SAVING
THAT FOR
LAST.

WHAT?
OF
COURSE,
I DO.

ER.
DO
YOU
INTEND
TO BUILD
A WHOLE
BODY
EVENTU-
ALLY?



IF SO,
WE HAVE
NOTHING
FURTHER TO
DISCUSS!

I HOPE YOU
AREN'T GOING
TO SAY YOU
PREFER SOCKS
TO PANTY
HOSE

ARE
THE HOSE
AND
GARTERS
STRICTLY
NECESSARY?
Not
to speak
of the
heels



THAT
WAS
MY FIRST
ENCOUNTER
WITH HIM.

ER...

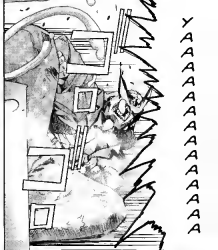
OH,
YES,
WHO
ARE
YOU?



AH...

ρ-:







WHAT
IS THIS
MACHINE
FOR?

THIS IS
CERTAINLY
INTERESTING.
VERY
INTERESTING
INDEED.

I'M
OFFERING
YOU
FUNDS AND
MANPOWER.
IF YOU'LL
AGREE
TO WORK
FOR ME.

WOULD
YOU
LIKE TO
TRANSFORM
THIS
MACHINE
INTO WHAT I
CONSIDER
TECHNOLOGY?

IMPRACTICAL
ENGINEERING
ISN'T
WHAT I
CONSIDER
TRUE
TECHNOLOGY.

YOU
SAID
YOUR
NAME IS
KABAFU.
WHAT
DO
YOU
DO?

I
CALL
IT
"THE
CORE."

WHAT
IS
YOUR
PURPOSE?

MY
PURPOSE
IS...



HE WAS
A MIX OF
IMMATURITY
AND
ARROGANCE.
HE WAS ALSO
A GENIUS,
AND HE
ALWAYS KEPT
HIS WORD.

THIS
CORE
COULD DO
INTERESTING
THINGS...
AS YOU
SAY

ALL
RIGHT, I'LL
WORK
WITH
YOU

I SEE
IT SOUNDS
LIKE A
FANTASY,
BUT..

MY
UNIQUE
RELATIONSHIP
WITH HIM
BEGAN
THAT
DAY.

HOW
DO
YOU
DO?

HER
NAME
IS MIWA
RENGAYA

SHE'S
MY
SIGNIFI-
CANT
OTHER!

OTHER
?

YES,
I CAN
SEE THE
QUALITIES
YOU
APPRECIATE
IN OTHERS.

OH,
COME
ON. YOU'RE
JUST
JEALOUS.

YES,
I AM
MY FIELD
IS THE
SAME
AS MY
FATHER'S

RENGAYA
IS AN UNUSUAL
NAME. WOULD
YOU BY ANY
CHANCE BE THE
DAUGHTER OF
DR. RENGAYA, THE
BIOENGINEERING
EXPERT?

BUT I DON'T
THINK
I'VE
PROPERLY
INTRO-
DUCED
MYSELF.

MY
NAME
IS
KABAPU.
MAY I
CALL YOU
MIWA-SAN?

YOU'VE
CERTAINLY
FOUND
YOURSELF
A GENTLE-
MAN.

I MEAN,
SHE'S NOT
AS SMART
AS ME,
BUT SHE'S
STILL A
GENIUS.

SHE'S
BETTER
THAN
HER
OLD
MAN,
YOU
KNOW

OH,
THAT'S
NOT
TRUE.

MIWA
RENGAYA
WOULD
MARRY
TENMANGU
SHIOUJI.
SHE WAS
ONCE A
QUIET
WOMAN
WITH A
FRAGILE
SMILE.

I'M SO
PLEASED
TO MEET
YOU,
SIR.

TENMANGU
TOLD ME
YOU'VE
BEEN
VERY KIND
TO HIM.



BUT WITH
TENMANGU,
THE
ROPONMATSU
PROTOTYPE
ONLY TOOK
EIGHT.

THE
PROTOTYPE
IS FINALLY
COM-
PLETED.

IT TOOK
LONGER
THAN I
EXPECTED.

IT WOULD
HAVE
TAKEN
100 YEARS
IF I
HADN'T
HELPED
YOU.

HOW
QUICKLY
TIME
PASSES.

HE
WAS
ONLY
THREE
WHEN
I LAST
SAW
HIM.

HOW
OLD IS
YOUR
SON
NOW?

IT
WILL BE A
PERFECT
TOY FOR
MY SON
BY THEN.

I NEED TWO
TO THREE MORE
YEARS TO RESOLVE
THE PROBLEMS
ASSOCIATED
WITH ITS WEIGHT
AND SENSORY
EQUIPMENT.

TENMANGU...
MISSING?!

IT WAS
TWENTY
YEARS AGO
THAT HE
DIS-
APPEARED.

HE
MAY
NEVER
RETURN...

DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
MY HUSBAND,
KABAPI. HE
TOLD ME HE
WAS GOING
ON A
SOUL-SEARCHING
JOURNEY.

SOUL-
SEARCHING

YOU'VE
BEEN ILL.
I'VE HEARD, IT'S
PERFECTLY
UNDERSTANDABLE...

I
COULD
NOT
BE
ANY
BETTER.

HAVE
YOU ANY
IDEA WHERE
IS? HAVE
YOU HEARD
ANYTHING?
HAVE
YOU
ER...

IT'S NOT
THAT EASY
TO FIND
ONE'S SOUL.
YOU KNOW.

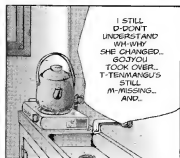
WHAT
HAP-
PENED
TO
YOUR
HAIR?

WELL? MY
HUSBAND
DISAPPEARED,
AND I'M
GOING TO
HAVE TO
RAISE OUR
SON ON MY
OWN NOW.

ALL
OF A
SUDDEN,
YOU'VE
CHANGED...

MIWA
?

A
MOTHER
NEEDS
TO BE
STRONG.





MY
SENIORS!
We
made
it on
time.

SO
WHAT'S
THIS ALL
ABOUT?



OH,
NO!
WE'RE
RUNNING
LATE!

UM...
GOOD
AFTER-
NOON.
IT'S
NICE
TO..



UM,
THESE
ARE MY
SENIORS
AT
SCHOOL.

ARE
YOU
TERIHA?

IT'S
VERY
NICE
TO
MEET
YOU!

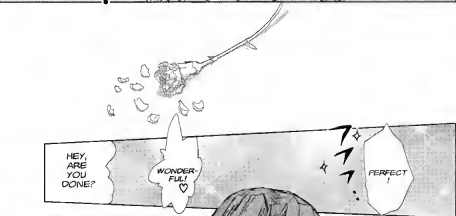


CHANGE
?

COME
THIS
WAY!

WE
MUST
CHANGE!
HURRY
UP!





Ka-wa-ii (x 3)!!!









SO THIS IS LIKE A SALES BOOTH AT A FESTIVAL. NOODLES, CHICKEN, TERIYAKI, STUFF LIKE THAT?

UM... SOMETHING LIKE THAT, YES.



THEY WENT SHOPPING FOR, UM, NOODLES, CHICKEN, TERIYAKI, stuff like that.

WHERE ARE YOUR SENIORS?

YES, I DO.

UM, YES, DO YOU UNDERSTAND MONEY? Maybe not yet?

RIGHT, SO HERE'S THE MERCHANDISE WE WANT TO MOVE. GOT THE PRICES MARKED?

IT'S OKAY, UMI.

...I JUST THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE FOR YOU TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE, AND SEE OTHER PEOPLE...

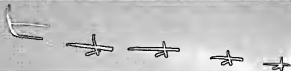
I JUST THOUGHT...

...I'M SORRY. THEY'RE SO THOUGHTLESS.

later...

(4U)!!!

I TOLD THEM I BROUGHT YOU HERE SO YOU COULD HAVE SOME FUN, MAYBE, NOT SELL FOR US.

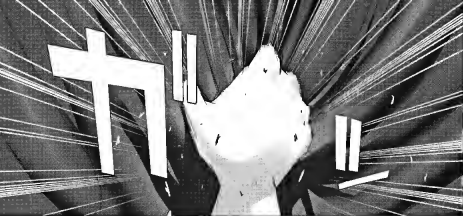














DOCTOR,
I REALLY
DO THINK
YOU SHOULD
PERHAPS
CONSIDER
MEDICAL
CARE.

I DUNNO.
AT HIS
AGE, IS
THERE
EVEN
A POINT
IN GOING
TO THE
HOSPITAL?

Apparently
'eez sufferin'
from a combination
a' pneumoniae,
carbure monoxide
poisonin', on'
bein' hit by a bus.



HEY,
DOC, WHY
DON'T YOU
BECOME
A CYBORG
LIKE ME?
THAT WHICH
DOES NOT
KILL ME,
MAKES
ME GO TO
SHOUJI FOR
REPAIRS!



79



REALLY
?



...
...SURE.



MY
SENIORS
SAID YOU
WERE
VERY
HELPFUL.

UML
WOULD
YOU MIND
ASSISTING
US AGAIN
NEXT
MONTH?

END MISSION 5



UM...
IT'S
A LITTLE
HARD TO
EXPLAIN...
in so
many
words.

BY
THE WAY,
WHAT WAS
TODAY'S
FESTIVAL
ABOUT?
And
what kind
of book
is this?

EXCEL'S AG



NOW...



...LET'S
START
IT. ♪



HM
?

TWO
YEARS
IN A
ROW?

HUH
P

THAT
WAS
SOME
GOOD
SOBA,
WASNT
IT?

NOW,
SHALL WE
GO TO THE
TEMPLE?
WE CAN
WORSHIP
TWO YEARS
IN A
ROW!

カ
チ
ヤ

HUH...

ARE
YOU
RELIGIOUS,
UMI?

IF YOU
VISIT THE
TEMPLE
RIGHT
BEFORE AND
RIGHT AFTER
NEW YEAR'S, IT
COUNTS AS
TWO YEARS
IN A ROW!



...THAT
I'LL DO
MY BEST
IN THE
COMING
YEAR!

NOT
REALLY--
BUT
VISITING A
TEMPLE
GIVES ME A
SENSE OF
CONVICTION..



YOU SEE,
IN THIS
SEASON,
ANYONE CAN
GO TO THE
NEIGHBORHOOD
TEMPLE,
AND GIVE IT
A RING

OH, THAT'S
THE SOUND
OF A NEW
YEAR'S
BELL.

?



108?
ME, ALL I
WANT IS TO
DO IS EAT,
SLEEP,
AND..

THEY SAY
HUMANS HAVE
108 WORLDLY
DESIRES. ON NEW
YEAR'S EVE,
PEOPLE TRY TO
RID THEMSELVES
OF THESE
DESIRES BY
RINGING THE
BELL AT A
TEMPLE.

DING
!!





MISSION 6

BEHIND SHADOW, AN
EXTRAORDINARY BEING



IN A
NON-
VIOLENT
FASHION,
OF
COURSE!

KILL
HIM!
TORTURE
HIM!

WHY
WHAT
WOULD
THE
BUDDHA
DO?

A
NATIONAL
TREASURE...
DESTROYED
!!

The
bells!
The
bells!



YOU
KNOW,
IT'S VERY
IMPORTANT
THAT WE
NEVER
VISIT THIS
TEMPLE
AGAIN

WHA!
I'LL BET
EARTHLY DESIRES
ARE POURING OUT
OF THAT THING
NOW LIKE A
BROKEN DAM

HEH-HEH
NO. I
USED
ALL THE
STRENGTH
I HAD!

Did
ye not
set a limit
on ya power
output,
Iwata?



THAT
LAST
STROKE
SOUNDED
A LITTLE
OFF.

THE BELL
STOPPED
RINGING
ALL OF A
SUDDEN.

HM
?

I CAN'T BELIEVE
WE HAD TO
WORK ON
NEW YEAR'S
EVE.

I GUESS
IT'S
TRUE THAT
EXECUTIVES
ARE THE
BUSIEST
PEOPLE
IN THE
WORLD.

IT'S
NEARLY
MIDNIGHT,
PRESIDENT
EXCEL.
THE NEW
YEAR IS
ALMOST
HERE.

YES.
REMEMBER
THAT OUR
COMPANY
RE-OPENS
FOR
BUSINESS
JANUARY
2ND.

WE'RE
ALMOST
OUT
OF HERE..
I CAN'T
WAIT
TO CELEBRATE
AND RELAX!
for 24 hours,
anyway...

15
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2



ONLY
ONE
DAY
OFF...
sigh

I NEVER
REALIZED
CLIMBING
THE SOCIAL
LADDER
WOULD BE
SO LABOR-
INTENSIVE.



KYAAAAA!

OH,
MY.

スッキュウッ

THE
ELEVATOR
STOPPED
!

WHAT...
?





YOU
KNOW,
I DON'T
REMEMBER
EVER HAVING
A BLACKOUT
IN THIS
NEIGHBORHOOD
BEFORE.



OF
ALL THE
NIGHTS
FOR THE
POWER TO
GO OUT!



OH,
DEAR,
I WONDER
IF YOU'RE
CATCHING
GOLD.

UHM,
I FELT
DIZZY
FOR A
MOMENT.



TERIHA
?!



LET'S
GO.

WE'LL
BE AT
THE TEMPLE
SOON.
THERE MAY
BE SOME
LIGHTS ON
THERE.

I'M
OKAY.

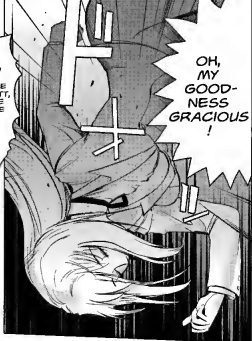
HOW
DO YOU
FEEL?
SHOULD
WE GO
HOME?







THIS IS TERRIBLE!
I'M
TALKING LIKE
SENIOR HYATT,
AND YOU'RE
ACTING LIKE
HER!
here,
I'll help
you up
Oh...



OH,
MY
GOOD-
NESS
GRACIOUS
!



...snap
!!



OH, MS.
ELGALA,
IT LOOKS
LIKE THE
INTERCOM
IS STILL
WORKING.

IT
MUST BE
ALL THAT
DESKWORK
SINCE
BECOMING
PRESIDENT.
WHERE DOES
SHE PUT
IT?

My
breasts
are still
larger

IT'S A
GOOD
THING SHE
CAN'T HEAR
THIS. BUT...
BOY, SHE'S
GAINED
WEIGHT.



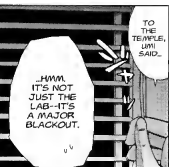
I CAN'T
RUN THIS
TEST ON
EMERGENCY
POWER!

WHAT'S
GOING ON?
I WAS IN THE
MIDDLE OF
TEST-STARTING
MY
MACHINE!



...HMM,
IT'S NOT
JUST THE
LAB--IT'S
A MAJOR
BLACKOUT.

TO
THE
TEMPLE,
UMI
SAID...



...OH,
RIGHT.
I CAN'T
YELL AT
THEM--THEY
WENT
OUT.



...AT
AN IM-
PORTANT
TIME
LIKE
THIS
?!

イラッ

WHY
MUST
IT
HAPPEN





EVERYTHING'S
STOPPED--
THE TRAINS, THE
SUBWAYS...EVEN
THE SIGNALS
ARE OUT. JUST
LOOKIN' AT THAT
TRAFFIC JAM
I'M LEARNIN'
ALL KINDS OF
GESTURES.

HELL, MAYBE
THEY CUT
A FEW
CORNERS
WHEN THEY
INSTALLED
THE LINES
IN THE
CITY.

Like
Anche.



I HEARD
SOMEONE
SAY IT
MIGHT
NOT COME
BACK ON
FOR A
WHILE.

Wh-wh-
womp
in' powah
company
don't
I fix in'
b-blackout?



...IS
THAT
SNOW...
?

I JUST
GOT BACK
FROM THE
TAXI STAND.
THE LINE'S
AROUND THE
BLOCK.



COME
ON...
WE'VE
GOT TO
MAKE A
PLAN.



L-LUCKY
FOR
ME YOU
DECIDED
TO

YEAH,
COME
TO THINK
OF IT, I
DIDN'T
NEED TO
DRESS
WARM.

WATA,
GIVE
ME YOUR
JACKET.

DUDE,
I KNOW
IT'S YOUR
TRADEMARK,
BUT WHY
ARE YOU
WEARING
A SHORT-
SLEEVED
SHIRT
IN THE
FIRST PLACE?

It's
g-g-geet
cold.

MAYBE
THERE'S
SOMEWHERE
WE CAN GO
TO WARM UP
IN THIS
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD?

I DON'T
WANT TO
CATCH
COLD
ON NEW
YEAR'S
DAY.

WHY
DON'T WE
JUST START
WALKING HOME?
IF WE'RE LUCKY
ENOUGH TO
SPOT A FREE
TAXI, WE CAN
ALWAYS GRAB
IT.

...IS IT
GETTING
COLDER
IN
HERE...?

NOW
IT'S
STARTED
SNOWING...

...THE
RISK
OF A
LINGERING,
FROZEN
DEATH.

OF
COURSE,
THIS IS THE
DRAWBACK
OF HAVING
AN OUTSIDE
ELEVATOR.

BRRRR!
DOING
NOTHING
MAKES ME
EVEN
COLDER.
LET'S TALK,
SENIOR
HYATT!

SENIOR
HYATT...
?



...IT'S
J-JUST
THAT
YOU
HAVEN'T
BEEN
DEAD
FOR SO
LONG!

SHRIEK!
I MEAN,
PARDON ME,
SENIOR
HYATT,
IT'S
JUST...



W-WELL...
SHIVERING.



BUT I,
ELGALA,
AM DESTINED
TO BE THE
LAST WOMAN
STANDING!!

IT'S A
NOSTALGIC
EVENING
OF HORROR
HERE AT
ILL
HEAD-
QUARTERS!

FOR
AULD
LANG
SYNE,
GET
ME OUT
OF
HERE!

TRAPPED
IN MY
GLASS
PRISON,
EVEN AS I
SURVEY THE
CITY WE
CONQUER!
O, THE
DELICIOUS,
FROSTY
IRONY, THAT
SUCKS
COLD AS A
POPSICLE!



...YES.

THE
FIRELIGHT'S
ACTUALLY
VERY
PRETTY.

THE
BLACKOUT
IS A
NURSANCE,
BUT THIS
TEMPLE
DOESN'T
SEEM
TO BE
AFFECTED.





ME ?



WHAT
DID YOU
ASK FOR,
TERIHA?



I PRAYED
THAT
YOU WILL
REGAIN
YOUR
MEMORY!

I donated
500 yen
for that.



...I
ASKED
FOR THE
SAME
THING, I
GUESS.

UM...



THE
KEY-
HOLE'S
FROZEN.

GYON,
GYON,
GET
THE
DOOR
OPEN!



GEEZ...
IT SEEMS
LIKE
IT'S
COLDER
INSIDE



WAIT,
I'LL USE
MY CELL
PHONE
LIGHT...
THERE
IT IS.

I CAN'T
SEE CRAP
IN HERE,
WHERE'S
THE
STOVE?

WHY
WOULD
ANYONE
BE?

Nae
one's
about.



WHAT!
WHY'D
YOU
MAKE ME
FUMBLE
AROUND
WITH MY
PHONE,
THEN?

I DUNNO,
ADVANCED
SENSOR
SUITE OR
SOME-
THING.

IWATA,
HOW
CAN
YOU
SEE IN
HERE?

HEY,
DON'T
COME
DOWN
ON ME...
I'M
DIFFERENTLY
ABLED.



WAIT,
I'LL
GO
REFILL
THE
TANK.

IT'S
OUT OF
KERO-
SENE.



SHOULD
I DO A
COUNTDOWN
FOR THE
STOVE?

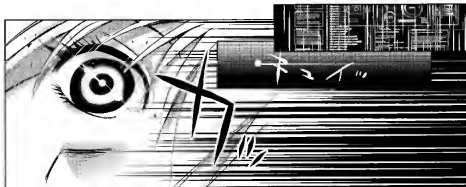
OKAY,
OKAY, I
GOT IT
FULL.

Ye knaa, this
is th' forst time
ah evah recall
benefittin' from
Iwata bein' a
cyborg an
'aol.

YOU'RE
GONNA BE
HANDI-CAPABLE
IF YOU DON'T
SHUT UP AND
GET THIS
STOVE
WORKING!

THE STOVE'S
BUT FREEDOM
OUR ASSES OFF

JUST
TURN
IT ON,
AND--





snifi
sob!

ARE
Y-YOU
ALL RIGHT?
I'M S-S-SO
GLAD YOU
W-WOKE UP!
NOT THAT I
W-W-WASN'T
HANDLING
MYSELF
JUST
FINE!

S-
SENIOR
EXCEL!



Y-YES,
SENIOR.
I'VE BEEN
FEELING
VERY
L-L-L-
LONELY.

Y-YOUE
BOTH
BEEN UN-
CONSCIOUS,
A-AND...

THERE
IS A
BLACK-
OUT.



YES,
WE'LL
HAVE
TO WAIT
FOR...

THE
ELEVATOR
HAS
STOPPED.

STAND
BACK.

HUH
?











AND
WHEN YOU
THINK
OF ME,
THINK
OF
ME AS
PRESIDENT.

THIS
WAS
ABOUT
MENTAL
CONCENTRATION,
NOT
PHYSICAL
POWER.

...SHE'S
SO
POWER-
FUL...



SENIOR
EXCEL...

YOU
KNOW,
THERE
SURE ARE
A LOT OF
STAIRS
IN THIS
BUILDING,
PRESIDENT.

SO
COLD,
PRESIDENT.
SO COLD.

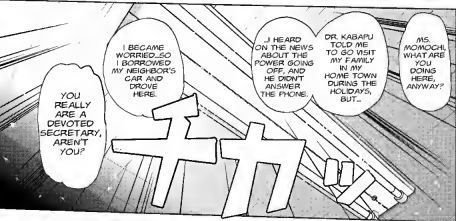
TO
THE
CAR.
QUICKLY.



DR.
KABAPU!
ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT
?!









OH,
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

HM
?

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!

HEY,
GUYS!

はっ!



H-AP-
H-
HAP...

OH,
HE'S
THAWING.

I
BOUGHT
SOME-
THING
TO
EAT.



Aye,
Me
an',
aah.

YEAH,
HAPPY
NEW
YEAR,
MAN.

OF
COURSE
Want a
place to
celebrate

PLEASE
KEEP ON
BEING MY
GOOD
FRIENDS
THIS
YEAR,
GUYS.



HOORAH
FOR MS.
MOMOCHI'S
FOOD!

WELL,
I HAD THIS
MADE FOR
TOMORROW...
I MEAN,
FOR
TODAY,
SO...

THAT
SOUNDS
GOOD!
YOU WENT
OUT OF YOUR
WAY TO
BRING THIS
HERE?

WOULD
YOU
LIKE SOME
ZONI SOUP
WITH RICE
CAKE?



I HAVE
A LONG,
LONG
WAY TO
GO.

MY
ATTEMPT
FAILED. DID
I ALTER THE
ORIGINAL
ONE TOO
MUCH?

HMPH.



AND I
DON'T
THINK I
NEED TO
KEEP THIS
PLACE
ANY LONGER.

I DIDN'T
EXPECT
IT WOULD
CONSUME
THAT
MUCH POWER.

I'M
NOT
READY TO
REPRODUCE
THE
ORIGINAL
YET...



WELL...

...I'VE
GROWN
TIRED OF
TEASING
HIM...



...SO
MAYBE
IT'S TIME
I LET
HIM
HAVE IT
BACK.



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR...
KABAPU.



IT'S
MY GIFT
TO YOU.



I'M
SURE
THIS YEAR
IS GOING
TO BE A
GOOD
ONE!

YOU
KNOW,
MOMMOGH'S
LOYALTY
REALLY
IMPRESSES
ME

'Eez
frail,
feeble.

HE'S
LIKE A
CICADA
ON THE
VERGE
OF
DYING.

I'M
GLAD
YOU
LIKE IT,
SIR.

..W-W-
WARM.

IT'S
T-T-
TASTY..

END MISSION 6

NEVER,
NEVER
TRY
TO LIFT
SENIOR
EXCEL

GRRRRRAAAAAA...
yes...

WOULD
YOU
LIKE
SOME
ZONI
SOUP,
MS.
ELGALA?





KABAPU ASCENDS INTO THE SKY!

CITY HALL BECOMES A BATTLEFIELD...

...FOR THOSE WHO
SEEK POWER!

EXCEL LIVES IN...

...HER OWN STRANGE WORLD!

OVERCOMING ALL
THESE TROUBLESOME
CIRCUMSTANCES, EXCEL SAGA
CONTINUES INTO THE
NEXT VOLUME!

PERHAPS!

Excel Saga 16

ORIGINAL JAPANESE PRODUCTION STAFF

STORY AND ART BY
RIKDO KOSHI

CHIEF OF STAFF
RIKU KUMI

PICTORIAL ASSISTANCE
ADNEKO
SHOUJI SATO
RASEN

EDITOR
YOSHIYUKI FUDETANI
IZUMI KAWAI

(In Japanese alphabetical order. Honorary titles are omitted.)

Special Thanks to ETC.

Guide to *Excel Saga* 16's Sound Effects!

3.1	FX	Kaen Kaen [blank blank: peending – sound of construction]
3.1	FX	Kyūki [whirr – sound of construction]
3.3	FX	Kaen Kaen Kaen [blank blank blank]
3.3	FX	Go Go Go [rumbling]
3.4	FX	Jin Jin [jazzle azzle – scorching sun]
3.5	FX	Pataa [shut]
3.6	FX	Pi Pi [peep, peep]
4.2	FX	Gogoga Gogoga [rumbling]
4.2	FX	Dogoga [rumbling]
4.5	FX	Kaen Kaen Kaen [blank blank blank]
4.5	FX	Gogoa [rumble]
5.4	FX	Bu [ptf - chucking]
6.2	FX	Gata [clerk]
6.3	FX	Zoro Zoro Zoro Zoro [trampling out]
6.3	FX	Paga [boo]
7.1	FX	Bara [flop]
7.3	FX	Gishi [squeaking of a chair]
7.5	FX	Zawa Zawa [buzz, buzz]
8.1	FX	Ka Ka Ka [clap, clap, clap]
8.2	FX	Gakoa [clerk – elevator stopping]
8.3	FX	Uia [whirr – elevator going up]
8.4	FX	Bu [zani]
8.5	FX	Kasa [rattle of paper]
9.1	FX	Karawa Karawa [ding dong]
9.2	FX	Gon Gon Gon [rumble]
9.3	FX	Zabishi [zani]
9.3	FX	Chie [ong – elevator stopping]
10.1	FX	Katsu Katsu Katsu [clap, clap, clap]
10.3	FX	Gogoa [rumble]
10.4	FX	Go Go Go [rumbling]
11.2	FX	Gapa [speak – kicking off a shoe]
11.2	FX	Bata Bata [pitter-patter]
11.3	FX	Bacha [click]
11.3	FX	Buraa [swing]
11.4	FX	Bataa [bars]
11.5	FX	Baan [to-do]
12.1	FX	Baa [to-do]
12.2	FX	Fuwa [blushing from happiness]
13.1	FX	Su [whisk]
13.1	FX	Kiri [squeak]
13.2	FX	Gi [squeezing]
13.2	FX	Uroho ["oops-a-daisy"]
13.3	FX	Gogipipi [squeeze]
13.5	FX	Puru Puru Puru [shaking]
14.1	FX	Za [whistle]
14.1	FX	Kaho Kaho [coughing]
14.2	FX	Awa Awa [pan cking]
14.3	FX	Zazaa [pouring rain]
14.3	FX	Piku [blinking]
14.4	FX	Pan [clapping]
14.5	FX	Zazaa [pouring rain]
14.5	FX	Zoro Zoro Zoro [dragging]
14.5	FX	Bacha Bacha [splash, splash]
15.1	FX	Gopo [blab]

Most of Rikdo Koshi's original sound FX are left in their original Japanese in the VIZ edition of *Excel Saga*, exceptions being handwritten dialogue and "drawn" notes that have the character of captions. Although these sounds are all listed as "FX," they are of two types: onomatopoeia (in Japanese, *giseigo*) where the writing is used in an attempt to imitate the actual sound of something happening, and mimesis (in Japanese, *gitaigo*) where the writing is used to attempt to convey rhetorically a state, mood, or condition. Whereas the first type of FX will invariably be portrayed with kana, the second may use kana and/or kanji. One should note that there is often overlap between these two types. As always, the numbers are given in the original Japanese reading order right-to-left.

You are still allowed, however, to write your letters left-to-right to
Oubliette c/o Excel Saga
VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77064
San Francisco, CA 94107

25.4	FX	Shu (squeaked)
25.5	FX	Fae (sigh)
26.1	FX	Pach (click)
26.2	FX	Batae (stom)
26.5	FX	Pasa (rustle)
27.1	FX	Shu Shu (scribbling)
27.5	FX	Haa (sigh)
28.3	FX	Mu ha ha ha ha (laughing)
29.6	FX	Kachi (click)
29.6	FX	Gatae (blank)
29.6	FX	Bao (whirr)
30.3	FX	Buru Buru Buru (trembling)
30.4	FX	Doo (bang)
31.1	FX	Gokoro (gulp)
31.1	FX	Gaba (whisk)
31.3	FX	Mi (mew)
31.5	FX	Ha (gasp)
31.7	FX	Bata Bata (pitter-patter)
31.1	FX	Batae (bang)
37.1	FX	Buru (rustle)
38.1	FX	Torunuru (dial tone)
38.2	FX	Iru Iru (gurgling irritated)
38.2	FX	Torunuru (dial tone)
38.4	FX	Gota (clank)
38.4	FX	Fae (sigh)
39.5	FX	Tao (tap)
39.4	FX	Tao Tao (tap, tap)
39.5	FX	Gu (clenching)
40.2	FX	Zai (thrusting out)
40.3	FX	Gesa (rustle)
40.3	FX	Gasa (rustle)
40.6	FX	Mjoe (whirr)
41.1	FX	Pa (lamp turned on)
41.1	FX	Ji Ji Ji (static noise)
41.1	FX	Gota Gota (clank, blank)
41.2	FX	Ka Ka Ka Ka (rustling)
41.3	FX	Ka Ka Ka Ka Ka Ka (rustling)
41.3	FX	Ji Ji Ji (static noise)
41.4	FX	Ji Ji Ji (static noise)
41.4	FX	Pasa (tip)
41.5	FX	Iru (gurgling irritated)
41.6	FX	Ka Ka Ka Ka (rustling)
41.6	FX	Ka Ka (rustling)
42.1	FX	Piorio (coda)
42.2	FX	Biku (gasp)
42.2	FX	Bao (choking)
42.3	FX	Papa Roroa Roroa (music)
42.4	FX	Goshi Goshi (rub, rub)
43.1	FX	Bowawawawa (boon)
43.2	FX	Ji Ji Ji (static noise)
43.2	FX	Iru (gurgling irritated)
43.4	FX	Ji Ji Ji (static noise)
43.4	FX	Gota (clank)
44.1	FX	Bosoo (bushong)
44.2	FX	Ji Ji Ji (static noise)
44.2	FX	Gatae (blank)
44.2	FX	Zu (whisk)
44.4	FX	Ji Ji Ji (static noise)

15.2	FX	Geta Geta (coughing)
15.2	FX	Kofu (coughing)
15.2	FX	Hu (exhale)
15.2	FX	Hu (exhale)
15.3	FX	Geta (cough)
15.3	FX	Kofu (cough)
15.3	FX	Zasa (pouring rain)
15.4	FX	Zasa (pouring rain)
15.4	FX	Kofu (cough)
15.5	FX	Pashu (splash)
15.5	FX	Ha (breathe)
15.5	FX	Zu (whence)
16.1	FX	Gu (grubbing)
16.1	FX	Gake (stumbling)
16.1	FX	Bashu (splash)
16.2	FX	Furu Furu (shaking head)
16.3	FX	Koka Koka (nodding)
16.4	FX	Bururururu (shaking hand)
17.5	FX	Zasa (pouring rain)
17.6	FX	Fae (blowing air)
17.6	FX	Furu Furu (shaking feistly)
18.1	FX	Paku (march)
18.3	FX	Aaaa (yawn)
18.3	FX	Haku Haku (munch, munch)
18.4	FX	Ka (taming)
19.1	FX	Zu Zu Zu (shazzing)
19.2	FX	Buru Buru (shaking head)
20.4	FX	Shuu (whooosh)
20.5	FX	Peta Peta (pitter-patter)
20.6	FX	Suu (whooosh)
20.7	FX	Kata Kata Kata (tap, tap, tap)
20.8	FX	Fuu (sighing)
21.1	FX	Kasan (weeping)
21.3	FX	Pori (scratching)
21.5	FX	Bari Bari Bari (scratching hand)
21.6	FX	Gishi (squeak)
21.6	FX	Seta (whisk)
22.1	FX	Ka Ka (click, click)
22.2	FX	Gu (blank)
22.2	FX	Ban (bang)
22.3	FX	Chu (whisk)
22.4	FX	Suu (inhaling)
22.5	FX	Huu (exhaling)
22.6	FX	Kata (clank)
22.7	FX	Peta Peta (pitter-patter)
23.1	FX	Gara (rustle)
23.2	FX	Goshi Goshi (rub, rub)
23.3	FX	Kya (squeezing)
23.4	FX	Bosoo (buro)
24.1	FX	Zaka (whirr)
24.2	FX	Poisu (clank)
24.3	FX	Pishe (clank)
25.2	FX	Zaa Zaa (whence, whence)
25.2	FX	Ha Ha (huff, huff)
25.3	FX	Hu (huff)
25.3	FX	Zaa (whence)
25.3	FX	Zaa (whence)
25.3	FX	Zaa (whence)

OUBLIETTE

Your *Excel SAGA* bonus section!

55.5	FX	Zaa (whirr)
55.6	FX	Go (snack)
56.1	FX	Shuu (whoosh)
56.2	FX	Ou (thud)
56.3	FX	Petsu Petsu (drip, drip)
56.4	FX	Zaasa (splash)
56.5	FX	Zaasaa (splash)
56.6	FX	Zaa Zaa (whence, whence)
56.8	FX	Tobo Tobo (trudling)
57.1	FX	Tobo Tobo (trudging)
57.1	FX	Zaaa (splash)
57.2	FX	Heta (stumping)
57.2	FX	Bacha (splash)
57.2	FX	Zaasa (pouring rain)
57.2	FX	Suya Suya Suya (sleeping soundly)
57.3	FX	Yasa Yasa (shaking)
57.4	FX	Zaasaa (splash)
58.1	FX	Gascha Gascha (kink-kink)
58.1	FX	Baaa (in-do)
58.2	FX	Zaka Zaka Zaka (striding)
58.3	FX	Zaaa (splash)
58.3	FX	Ikyu Kyu (rub rub)
58.3	FX	Gatan (kink)
58.4	FX	Sacha Sacha (kink-kink)
58.5	FX	Sora (mowing quietly)
58.6	FX	Gara (rattle)
58.6	FX	Gaba (grabbing)
59.1	FX	Faa (hissing)
59.1	FX	Bo (whisk)
59.2	FX	Sufaa (stereo)
59.3	FX	Da (dashing)
59.4	FX	Sam (atom)
60.2	FX	Go (grabbing)
60.3	FX	Gu Gu Gu (pushing down)
60.3	FX	Su Su (shuffle, shuffle)
60.3	FX	Muu Mus (grumbling)
60.4	FX	Nyoko (joking forward)
61.1	FX	Kasuu Kasuu (clap, clap)
61.2	FX	Ihyy (whiz)
61.4	FX	Ku Ku (chucking)
61.5	FX	Ila (gasp)
62.2	FX	Paa (clapping)
62.4	FX	Paa (tapping)
62.5	FX	KJ (humming)
63.1	FX	Fu Fu (giggling)
63.1	FX	Tonururu (ring, ring)
63.2	FX	na ("OK")
63.2	FX	Tonururu (ring, ring)
63.3	FX	Tonuu (ring, ring)
63.3	FX	Gha (click)
63.3	FX	Tonuu (ring, ring)
64.1	FX	Baase (bawling)
64.2	FX	Kyaa (screaming)
64.2	FX	Haste (grabbing tight)
64.2	FX	Hiru Hiru (waving)
64.3	FX	Gya (screaming)
64.3	FX	Kyaa (screaming)
65.1	FX	Paaaa (bawling)

45.1	FX	Gata (blank)
45.1	FX	Gatata (kink)
45.2	FX	Ji Ji Ji (static noise)
45.2	FX	Gaa (rattling)
45.3	FX	Gin (clenching)
45.3	FX	Ji Ji Ji Ji Ji (static noise)
46.3	FX	Gata (blank)
46.4	FX	Baaa (flap)
46.4	FX	Gata Gata (blank, blank)
46.4	FX	Gashu (grabbing)
47.1	FX	Daka Daka (throb, throb)
47.3	FX	Daka Daka (throb, throb)
47.5	FX	Za (whisk)
47.5	FX	Suu (wring)
47.6	FX	Gascha (kink)
47.7	FX	Zuu (sliding)
47.7	FX	Gatan (kink)
47.8	FX	Gatagan (kink, kink)
47.8	FX	Gata (blank)
48.1	FX	Paaa (rattle)
48.3	FX	Gara (rattle)
48.3	FX	Za (whisk)
48.3	FX	Sataa (bang)
48.2	FX	Pyyu (whirr)
48.3	FX	Oro Oro Oro (pawicking)
50.1	FX	Oro Oro (pawicking)
50.2	FX	Dapaa (bang)
50.2	FX	Da (dashing)
50.4	FX	Gucco (wroom)
50.4	FX	Papaa (borking)
50.4	FX	Suu (wroom)
50.5	FX	Oro (wroom)
51.1	FX	Faccoo (wroom)
51.2	FX	Sataa (clam)
51.2	FX	Ka Ka (clap, clap)
51.3	FX	Ko (clap)
51.3	FX	Suu (rush of water)
52.1	FX	Saaa Saaa (rattle, rattle)
52.2	FX	Su (whip)
52.3	FX	Zaa (pouring rain)
52.3	FX	Aaaaa (screaming)
52.3	FX	Go Go Go Go (rumbly)
52.6	FX	Zaku (snapping open)
53.1	FX	Sataa (flap)
53.1	FX	Za (whisk)
53.2	FX	Tauka Tauka Tauka (stamp, stomp, stomp)
53.4	FX	Hira Hira (flap, flap)
53.5	FX	Chi (jip)
53.6	FX	Hira (flap)
54.2	FX	Kuu Kuu (whirling)
54.3	FX	Pe (whip)
54.4	FX	Ihya (tip)
54.5	FX	Kushu (crumple)
54.6	FX	Zaaa (splish)
55.2	FX	Za (scrunch)
55.3	FX	Za (whir)
55.4	FX	Daki Daki (throb, throb)
55.5	FX	Zaa (whir)

79.2	FX	Grai (glare)
80.1	FX	Gini (squeak)
80.1	FX	Zappi (splash)
80.1	FX	Zibai (splash)
80.2	FX	Jikoro Jikoro (dialing a phone)
80.3	FX	Panoro Pa (dial tone)
80.4	FX	Oapan (bang)
80.5	FX	Kya (rubbing)
80.5	FX	Gasa Gasa (rustle)
81.1	FX	Gara (rattle)
81.1	FX	Jikoro Jikoro (dialing)
81.2	FX	Gasa (rustle)
81.2	FX	Batan (shut)
81.3	FX	Bachi (click)
81.3	FX	Tsue Tsue Tsue (busy tone)
81.3	FX	Wa ha ha ha (laughing)
81.5	FX	Chin (click)
82.2	FX	Koku (maddling)
82.4	FX	Pipi Pipi (peep, peep)
82.4	FX	Pipiran (jubilant sound)
82.4	FX	Pui (slap)
82.4	FX	Be (choking)
83.1	FX	Uu Uu (yes, yes)
83.2	FX	Pui (chopping)
83.4	FX	Rero Rero (rolling the tongue)
84.2	FX	Awasawa (jazzicking)
84.3	FX	Chin (click)
88.2	FX	Nawa (Wawa)
88.5	FX	Fu (giggle)
87.2	FX	Zui (zooming)
87.4	FX	Haa (yawn)
88.2	FX	Pura Pura (shaking)
88.4	FX	Uokian (throb)
88.8	FX	Pasa (paw)
88.1	FX	Gaba (whisk)
90.1	FX	Gassan (muffle)
81.1	FX	Gata (blank)
91.2	FX	Gasa (rustle)
91.5	FX	Gacha (clink)
91.8	FX	Sara Sara (rattle, rattle)
92.1	FX	Pusan (bumping)
94.3	FX	Nii (maw)
95.1	FX	Pyaso (howling)
95.2	FX	Gasa (rustle)
95.3	FX	Kata Kata (shaking)
95.4	FX	Furu Furu Furu (shivering)
95.5	FX	Gara (rattle)
97.2	FX	Zasa (splashing)
97.2.3	FX	Gan Gan (pounding)
97.2	FX	Byuuu (howling)
97.3	FX	Gasha Gasha (clink/clink)
98.3	FX	Peto (tickling a nose)
98.4	FX	Gasa (rustle)
99.3	FX	Kii (whirr)
99.4	FX	Puru (yawn)
100.1	FX	Ban Ban (sawing)
100.2	FX	Kii (whirr)
100.3	FX	Goo (whirr)

85.2	FX	Oa (dashaw)
85.3	FX	Za Za (scrunch, scrunch)
85.3	FX	Goso (mumbling)
85.4	FX	Za (scrunch)
85.4	FX	Zassan (splash)
85.5	FX	Za Za (scrunch, scrunch)
86.1-87.1	FX	Hyooou (blowing wind)
87.1	FX	Za Za Za Za (scrunch, scrunch)
88.1	FX	Puru Pura (shivering)
88.1	FX	Puri (shivering)
88.1	FX	Shia (ruff)
88.1	FX	Shabo (ruff)
88.1	FX	Gatan (blank)
88.1	FX	Gata Gata (clink, clink)
88.1	FX	Misa (squeak)
88.2	FX	Gata (clink)
88.2	FX	Gata (clink)
88.2	FX	Fuu (shivering)
88.2	FX	Wuu (grasp)
88.2	FX	Katu (buff)
89.1	FX	Gara (rattle)
88.1	FX	Zana Zana (zaw, zaw)
89.2	FX	Basa (flap)
70.1	FX	uuu (grooming)
70.3	FX	Gatan (blank)
70.4	FX	Fu (chuckle)
70.5	FX	Su (whisk)
71.1	FX	Gia (glare)
71.3	FX	Biki (whip-like crack of air shooting up)
71.4	FX	Waa Waa (tracing air)
72.1	FX	Za Za Za (scrunch, scrunch)
72.2	FX	Hakee (being mesmerized)
72.2	FX	Kato (blank)
72.3	FX	Pasa (steam coming up)
72.4	FX	Pururu (shivering)
73.1	FX	Hyuu (howling)
73.2	FX	Hyuu (howling)
73.2	FX	Gara Gata Gata (rattling)
74.4	FX	Puru Pura (shivering)
74.5	FX	Gata Gata (clink, clink)
74.5	FX	Gashan (scrash)
74.5	FX	Nii (maw)
75.1	FX	Ha (gasping)
75.4	FX	Gaku (dumpling)
75.5	FX	Hyuu (howling)
75.7	FX	Bawoo (waaa)
76.3	FX	Gara (rattle)
76.3	FX	Gasa (rustle)
76.3	FX	Zasa Zasa (scrapping)
76.4	FX	Zaku Zaku (scrapping)
77.2	FX	Ooya Ooya Ooya (buzz, buzz)
77.2	FX	Wai (baw)
77.3	FX	Daka Daka (stomp, stomp)
77.4	FX	Daka (stomping)
77.5	FX	Batan (stomping)
78.1	FX	Fuu (paw)
78.4	FX	Dasa Dasa (stomp, stomp)
78.4	FX	Boyooyan (bo)

OUBLIETTE

Your EXCEL SAGA bonus section!

114.2	FX	Mogyu [stifling]
114.2	FX	Goo [string]
114.2	FX	Men Men [munching]
115.1	FX	Gutsu [kunk]
115.2	FX	Gutsu Gutsu [kunk, kunk]
115.2	FX	Gutsu [kunk]
115.4	FX	Gutsu Gutsu [kunk, kunk]
115.5	FX	Gaken Gaken [kunk, kunk]
115.5	FX	Mori Mori [munching]
115.5	FX	Chi Chi [tick-tack]
118.1	FX	Meshte Meshte [chomp, chomp]
118.1	FX	Meshte Meshte [chomp, chomp]
118.2	FX	Men Men [munching]
118.2	FX	Gakken [gubing]
118.3	FX	Zu Zu Zu [rattle]
118.4	FX	Bura Bura Bura Bura [shaking]
118.5	FX	Bura Bura Bura [tip, tip]
117.1	FX	Bishi [crack]
117.2	FX	Godo [thud]
117.3	FX	Men Men [munching]
118.1	FX	Gajia [kunk]
118.3	FX	Go Go Go Go [rumbling]
118.4	FX	Ba [whisk]
118.1	FX	Mori Mori Mori [munching]
119.3	FX	Goku [munkewing]
119.3	FX	Hae [sighing]
119.3	FX	Go [biding]
119.4	FX	Goshi [grubbing]
119.5	FX	Gulu [pushing]
119.5	FX	Moku Moku [munching]
118.6.7	FX	Gakken [swallowing]
118.7	FX	Ku [click]
120.1	FX	Paan [bang]
120.3	FX	Pata [flip]
120.4	FX	Gata [kunk]
121.1	FX	Mefuwana [tuning]
121.1	FX	Puu [putt]
121.1	FX	Gata [kunk]
121.2	FX	Gata [kunk]
121.2	FX	Fu Fu [chuckle]
121.3	FX	Gata [kunk]
121.3	FX	Dapan [chipping]
121.3	FX	Burin Burin [plump, plump]
121.3	FX	Moku Moku Moku [tuning]
122.1	FX	Gata [rattle]
122.1	FX	Gatas [kunk]
122.1	FX	Bata Bata [pitter-patter]
122.2	FX	Bata [dashing]
122.2	FX	Pata [slam]
123.1	FX	Byan Byan Byan [jumping]
123.4	FX	Kyero [glancing]
124.1	FX	Gobete [blub, blub]
124.2	FX	Zupopa [sucking]
124.2	FX	Zuko [sucking]
124.2	FX	Kyui [whirr]
124.2	FX	Zuroro [sharping]
124.3	FX	Kun [sniffing]
124.3	FX	Fus Fan [sniffing]

108.4	FX	Zawa Zawa [buzz, buzz]
108.5	FX	Kan Kan Kan Kan [clap, clap]
101.1	FX	Katsu Katsu Katsu [clap, clap]
101.2	FX	Su [whisk]
101.2	FX	Chin [ring]
101.3	FX	Gaken [kunk]
102.1	FX	Chin [ring]
102.1	FX	Gaken [kunk]
102.3	FX	Biku [gasp]
103.1	FX	Ze Ze Ze [scrunch, scrunch]
103.2	FX	Gara Gara Gara [rolling]
103.3	FX	Hyai [whisk]
104.1	FX	Gara [rattle]
104.2	FX	Suppe [putt]
104.2	FX	Puu [putt]
105.2	FX	Fuu [putt]
105.3	FX	Gutas [kunk]
105.3	FX	Gota Gota [kunk, kunk]
105.4	FX	Goden [zoo]
106.1	FX	Gajan [bang, bang]
108.2	FX	GodaGoda [rumble, rumble]
108.3	FX	Gira [glare]
108.4	FX	Fa [smirking]
107.3	FX	Fa [putt]
108.1	FX	Guan [gong]
108.1	FX	Gaya Gaya [whack, whack]
108.1	FX	Banana [toss, toss]
108.1	FX	Gaya Gape [blub, blub]
108.1	FX	Juu [sizzle]
108.1	FX	Gya Gya [squeak, squeak]
109.1	FX	Gasha [smack]
109.2	FX	Jawawa [sizzle]
108.2	FX	Gowan [gulp]
109.3	FX	Ja Ju [sizzle, sizzle]
109.4	FX	Gatsu Gatsu [whack, whack]
109.5	FX	Jawawa [sizzle]
109.5	FX	Da Da Da Da [wham, wham]
110.1	FX	Goden [wham]
110.1	FX	GodaGoda [tada]
111.1	FX	Fuu [putt]
111.2	FX	Go Go Go Go [rumble, rumble]
111.2	FX	Paki [snap]
111.2	FX	Zuo [sharping]
111.3	FX	Gan [bang]
111.4	FX	Gden [wham]
111.4	FX	Baku [munch]
111.5	FX	Gata Gata Gata [munch, munch]
112.1	FX	Moku Moku [chomp, chomp]
112.1	FX	Gajan Gan [bang, bang]
112.2	FX	Mori Mori [munching]
112.2	FX	Uhi [yesh]
112.2	FX	Uki Uki [chomp, chomp]
112.4	FX	Gatsu Gatsu [munching]
113.1	FX	Mori Mori [munching]
113.1	FX	Pui [plop]
113.1	FX	Mori [munching]
113.4	FX	Gatsu Gatsu Gatsu [munch, munch]
114.1	FX	Ho Ho Ho [laughing]

138.3	FX	Koko (shock)
140.1	FX	Gaan (rumbling)
140.4	FX	Baban (clash)
141.1	FX	Katan (clank)
141.1	FX	Ha (jumping)
141.6	FX	Zaz (splash)
142.1	FX	Basha (echo)
142.2	FX	Baru Baru Baru Baru Baru (shivering)
142.2	FX	Kachi Kachi (chattering)
142.5	FX	Zawa Zawa Zawa Zawa (buzz, buzz)
143.1	FX	Zawa Zawa Zawa (buzz, buzz)
143.2	FX	Zawa Zawa (buzz, buzz)
143.3	FX	Peko (bowing)
143.3	FX	Ki (glaring)
143.4	FX	Bata Bata Bata (flapping around)
144.2	FX	Gasa (rustle)
144.3	FX	Shu (whisk)
144.3	FX	Ho (sigh of relief)
144.3	FX	Gata (clank)
144.4	FX	Basa (flap)
144.4	FX	Baka Baka (flashing)
144.4	FX	Ki (whisk)
144.5	FX	Zai Zai (closing on)
145.1	FX	Fu Fu Fu (giggling)
145.2	FX	Aaa (screaming)
145.2	FX	Aaaa (screaming)
145.4	FX	Fu Fu Fu (giggling)
145.5	FX	Shu (whisk)
146.2	FX	Bun (whirr)
147.1	FX	Kyaa (screaming)
147.1	FX	Kyaa Kyaa (cackling)
147.2	FX	Se (whisk)
147.3	FX	Go Go (wiggling)
147.4	FX	Hai (his)
147.5	FX	Pura Pura (shaking)
148.1	FX	Zuu (rustle)
148.1	FX	Basha Basha Basha (flashing)
148.2	FX	Puchi (snapping)
148.3	FX	Goso Goso Goso (tumble, tumble)
148.3	FX	Ho Ho Ho Ho (laughing)
148.1	FX	Zawa Zawa (buzz, buzz)
149.2	FX	Gatan (clank)
149.3	FX	Goso Goso (tumble, tumble)
149.3	FX	Awa (panticking)
149.3	FX	Basa (flap)
149.4	FX	So So So So (whisk, whisk)
149.4	FX	Awa Awa (panticking)
150.1	FX	Ban (bang)
150.2	FX	Tabi Tabi Tabi Tabi (crip and efficient moves)
150.3	FX	Chari (clang)
150.4	FX	Chin (clink)
150.5	FX	Hira (jumping lightly)
150.6	FX	Go (jostling)
150.7	FX	Hyooo (howling)
151.1	FX	Yoto Yoto Yoto (wobbling)
151.1	FX	Katsu Katsu (clink-clank)
151.2	FX	Jobo (splash)
151.2	FX	Yoro (wobbling)

127.1	FX	Chan Chan (chirp, chirp)
127.2	FX	katan (clank)
127.5	FX	Koku (nodding)
128.2	FX	Gofosou (guffing)
130.1	FX	Beau Beau Beau (buzzing)
130.2	FX	Puu Puu (shivering)
130.2	FX	Kata Kata (rattling)
130.2	FX	Hyaaa (howling)
130.2	FX	Shan Shan (whoosh, whoosh)
130.3	FX	Shan Shan (whoosh, whoosh)
130.4	FX	Hua (sigh)
130.5	FX	Hyaaa (howling)
131.1	FX	Min Min (chiming of cicadas)
131.2	FX	Min Min Min (chiming of cicadas)
131.2	FX	Katsu Katsu Katsu (clap, clap)
131.3	FX	Gatan (clank)
131.6	FX	Katsu (clap)
132.1	FX	Katsu Katsu (clap, clap)
132.1	FX	Katsun Katsun (clap, clap)
132.2	FX	Katsun (clap)
132.3	FX	Katsun Katsun (clap, clap)
132.4	FX	Katsu (clap)
132.5	FX	Katsu (clap)
133.1	FX	Gaan (whirr)
133.2	FX	Zu (whisk)
133.2	FX	Pan Pan Pan (dusting off)
134.1	FX	Bi (whip)
134.4	FX	Puan (buzzing)
134.4	FX	Puu Puu Puu (shivering)
134.4	FX	Chobi Chobi (dripping)
135.1	FX	Shin (silence)
135.3	FX	Chan Chan (whoosh, whoosh)
135.4	FX	Garo (clank)
135.5	FX	Puu Puu Puu (shivering)
135.5	FX	Gata Gata (clank)
135.5	FX	Ju Ju (whoosh, whoosh)
135.5	FX	Kata (clank)
135.6	FX	Koku (plank)
135.6	FX	Jawaa (whoosh)
135.6	FX	Jubasha (splash)
136.1	FX	Garo Garo (rolling)
136.2	FX	Gareroro (rolling)
136.3	FX	Juu (splash)
136.3	FX	Basha Basha (splash, splash)
136.3	FX	Juu Juu (whoosh, whoosh)
136.3	FX	Mou Mou (hum, hum)
136.4	FX	Bicha (splash)
136.4	FX	Go Go Go (panticking)
136.5	FX	Hyaa (howling)
137.1	FX	Gata Gata Gata Gata Gata Gata Gata (shining)
137.2	FX	Kachin Kachin Kachin Kachin (clinking)
137.4	FX	Daau (thud)
137.5	FX	Pori (scratching)
138.4	FX	Bi (whaa)
138.6	FX	Fu Fu (giggling)
139.1	FX	Min Min Min (chiming of cicadas)
139.2	FX	Gye (squaw)
139.2	FX	Fuhun (snoring)

OUBLIETTE

Your *Excel Saga* bonus section!

168.4	FX	Gaku (clumping)
168.4	FX	Fu (flap)
169.1	FX	Doo (thud)
169.2	FX	Gu (grabbing)
169.2	FX	Do (thud)
169.3	FX	Zumi (sneezing very heavy)
169.3	FX	takai (lamentation)
169.3	FX	Puribi (crapping)
169.4	FX	Da (thud)
169.5	FX	Makiki (squeak)
170.1	FX	Goo Goo Goo (electric noise)
170.2	FX	Shan (disheartened)
170.2	FX	Ku (screach)
170.3	FX	Ki (glare)
170.3	FX	Pi Pi Pi (peep, peep)
170.4	FX	Gaiba (smashing)
170.5	FX	Oro Oro Oro (sparkling)
170.6	FX	Gooo (rumbling)
171.1	FX	Goi (boom)
171.1	FX	Zukyu (zoom)
171.2	FX	Shu (silence)
171.3	FX	Ja (jolt)
171.4	FX	Ira (irritated)
172.1	FX	Zawa Zawa Zawa (buzz, buzz, buzz)
172.2	FX	Fuu (barking)
172.2	FX	Papaa (barking)
172.4	FX	Za (whip)
173.2	FX	Pyooo (howling)
173.4	FX	Kata Kata Kata (shivering)
173.4	FX	Bura Bura Bura (shivering)
173.5	FX	Ha (gasp)
174.1	FX	Dooon (wham)
174.2	FX	Sei (yelp)
174.2	FX	Haa (Hah)
174.3	FX	Gyuu (clenching)
174.3	FX	Kata (shivering)
174.3	FX	Bura (shivering)
174.3	FX	Gaku (shivering)
174.3	FX	Bura Bura Bura (shivering)
175.1	FX	Doo Doo Dooon (bang, bang)
175.2	FX	Goo (rear of fire)
175.2	FX	Pachi Pachi (crackles, crackles)
175.3	FX	Zawa Zawa (buzz, buzz)
176.2	FX	Chiri (ticking)
176.5	FX	Gacha (click)
176.5	FX	Goto (clank)
176.5	FX	Hyaaa (howling)
177.1	FX	Gyooo (howling)
177.1	FX	Gutan (clank)
177.2	FX	Gutan (clank)
177.2	FX	Gutan (clank)
177.3	FX	Gashaa (clank)
177.4	FX	Hya (whip)
177.4	FX	Gatu (clank)
177.5	FX	Gatu Goto (clank, clank)
177.5	FX	Gutan (clank)
177.6	FX	Da (row)
178.1	FX	Pewee (boom)
178.4	FX	Kyai (whirr)

151.2	FX	Gitsun (blink)
151.3	FX	Guracra (greeting)
151.4	FX	Zawa Zawa (buzz, buzz)
151.4	FX	Ho (sigh of relief)
151.5	FX	Zawa (buzz)
151.6	FX	Dakan (throb)
152.1	FX	Zee Zee Zee (wheezes, wheezes)
153.1	FX	Kakko Kakko (blink blink)
153.1	FX	Yoooo (staggering)
153.3	FX	Ooo (bang)
153.3	FX	Da (thud)
153.3	FX	Gu (shoving)
153.3	FX	Gu (grabbing)
155.2	FX	Zawa Zawa Zawa Zawa Zawa (buzz, buzz)
155.3	FX	Zawa (buzz)
155.4	FX	Zawa Zawa Zawa Zawa (buzz, buzz)
156.1	FX	Hyau (howling)
156.2	FX	Kata Kata (tattling)
156.2	FX	Uooo (greeting)
156.2	FX	Shan Shan Shan (munching)
156.1	FX	Oooo (whirr)
151.2	FX	Ooo (whirr)
151.2	FX	Ooo (bang)
151.2	FX	Gachi (spark)
151.3	FX	Ooo (whirr)
160.2	FX	Gacha (click)
160.2	FX	Pata Pata (pitter-patter)
161.1	FX	Un (Ungh)
161.1	FX	Goon (dog)
161.2	FX	Goon (dong)
162.1	FX	Goshario (claaarak)
163.1	FX	hii (shriek)
163.1	FX	Kowa (glare)
163.1	FX	Oooo (roaring)
163.2	FX	Da Da Da Da Da (dashing)
164.2	FX	Ka Ka Ka Ka (clap, clap, clap, clap)
164.3	FX	Ching (ring of the elevator)
164.3	FX	Gatan (clank)
165.1	FX	Chika (tick)
165.2	FX	Pan (snap)
165.3	FX	Chen (click)
165.4	FX	Zukyuu (whirr)
166.1	FX	Zuu (whir)
166.2	FX	Fa (snip)
166.2	FX	Papaa (snip)
166.2	FX	Papa (snip)
166.3	FX	Fa (snip)
166.4	FX	Zawa Zawa (buzz, buzz)
167.1	FX	Zawa Zawa (buzz, buzz)
167.2	FX	Fiku (flick)
167.3	FX	Fara (wobble)
167.4	FX	Fuu Fuu (shaking)
167.4	FX	Zawa Zawa (buzz, buzz)
167.4	FX	Goo (vroome)
167.4	FX	Ta (dashing)
167.5	FX	Zu Zu Zu (whirr)
168.1	FX	Hyau (howling)
169.3	FX	Gura (wobble)

Our two letters this time around turn out to share a common theme: travel and Excel Saga. Out of a sense of overwhelming guilt, we'll start with the letter below, which Oublietta received in December 2005, so let no one say we don't respond in a timely manner.

Dear Editors and Staff of VIZ Media,

In earnest anticipation of the eagerly awaited Volume 14 of *Excel Saga*, I would like to offer the accompanying fan art commemorating the re-invasion of our shores by the manic menagerie of characters birthed by the fertile mind of Mr. Rikda Kashi.

My usual gig is centered along Route 66 and Roadside Americana (I paint scenes of old cars along old 66, and write about the famous highway, including a new guide-book). But reading manga offers an escape from Route 66 when it becomes too much like work, and *Excel Saga* has become my favorite.

What I look for in a graphic novel is re-readability, and *Excel Saga* ranks high in that regard (as does *Battle Angel Alita Lost Order*, my other favorite manga). Indeed, one MUST read this manga many times to capture every nuance, as Mr. Kashi masterfully weaves a multi-layered narrative that demands our full attention. Afterward, I enjoy pouring over Oublietta, soaking up all that cultural insight, and trying to find these elusive page numbers!

The ominous rumblings of an actual PLOT and backstory leave me nervously awaiting Vol. 14. Just as long as wacky slapstick endures, and someone drops down a trapdoor every now and then, a little plot won't hurt (if memory serves, there was NO trapdoor episode in Volume 12... a major disappointment that I was glad to see rectified in Vol. 13).

If it would be possible for you to forward a copy of my fan art to Mr. Kashi, I would be most appreciative. If not, then please consider publishing an address where he is able to receive such tribute.

Again, I greatly look forward to reading the continued mis-adventures of Excel, Hyatt and Elgelo, and I appreciate the hard work that you folk at VIZ put into my favorite manga.

Sincerely,
Jerry McClanahan
Corsicana, TX

178.5	FX	Ka (yaro)
179.1	FX	Kyu (whir)
178.4	FX	Maka (whisk)
179.4	FX	Zuzu (scuffling)
178.5	FX	Ka (clank)
179.6-7	FX	Kan (clanking)
180.1	FX	Gin Gin Gin (squeaking)
180.1	FX	Sapaa (wham)
180.4	FX	Su (whisk)
180.5	FX	Geshi (grabbling)
181.1	FX	Mite Mite Mite (squeaking)
181.2	FX	Goton (rattle)
181.3	FX	Gon Goyou Gokon (rattle, rattle, rattle)
181.4	FX	Miteh Miteh (squeaking)
181.4	FX	Giki (squeaking)
182.1	FX	Gukoon (rattle)
182.1	FX	Maki (squeaking)
182.2	FX	Jika Bata (wiggling)
182.2	FX	Ka (clap)
182.3	FX	Za (whisk)
182.3	FX	Sika (gasp)
183.1	FX	Ka Ka Ka (clap, clap, clap)
183.2	FX	Ka (clap)
183.2	FX	Ka (clap)
183.2	FX	Ka (clap)
183.3	FX	Batas (clap)
183.3	FX	Kiki (squeaking)
183.4	FX	Zaku Zaku Zaku (scrunch, scrunch)
183.5	FX	Suca (rattle)
184.1	FX	Karu Kuru (rolling)
184.1	FX	Kan Kan Kan (clank, clank)
184.1	FX	Chin (whoosh)
184.1	FX	Ja (sizzling)
184.2	FX	Bata (clank)
184.2	FX	Go (clerk)
184.3	FX	Syees (howling)
185.1	FX	Hoo (throw)
185.1	FX	Kata Kata (chattering)
185.1	FX	Bata Bata (chattering)
185.1	FX	Hyuu (howling)
185.1	FX	Kata Kata (chattering)
185.2	FX	Chi (tickling)
185.3	FX	Chika (tickling)
185.4	FX	Baan (tickling)
186.1	FX	Be (rant)
186.2	FX	Peko (bowling)
186.3	FX	Furu Furu Furu (shivering)
186.4	FX	Hyuu (howling)
187.1	FX	Koo (whir)
187.4	FX	Sai (whisk)
188.1	FX	Fun Fun (humming)
188.2	FX	Chou Chou (squeaking)
188.3	FX	Chi (slurping)
188.3	FX	Kapi Kapi (gurgling)
188.3	FX	Ka Ka (chomp, chomp)
188.3	FX	Ka (chomp)
189.1	FX	Tatata ("we, we, we" - contraction of "itai")
189.1	FX	Kin Kin Kin (sharp pain)

OUBLIETTE

Your *Excel Saga* bonus section!

Dear Oubliette,

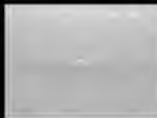
This is my second time writing to Oubliette since Vol. 14 and I'm happy to be able to contribute a letter to the *Excel Saga* bonus section again. After having learned about Mr. Ham growing up in Iran in Vol. 14 of *Excel Saga*, and after my private conversations with the editor himself, I felt compelled to write about two interesting moments in my last two-week journey to Iran in 2005 with an English translated *Excel Saga* volume 12.

It was near the end of the first week, and I remember traveling from Tehran to the Caspian Sea by car. I arrived at the hotel destination and after the end of the first day at the Caspian Sea, I decided to bring out my *Excel Saga* volume 12 to read.

There's two interesting things about reading *Excel Saga* volume 12 where I was at the time: the first was, most of the *Excel Saga* story in volume 12 takes place at the beach, and for myself being right near the beach in the hotel room, I couldn't tell if this was a coincidence or not. The second was, when I read this volume with a peace of mind while listening to the ocean waves, weirdly enough, it created the right atmosphere for reading this volume—since it takes place at the beach. After my two-week journey, I arrived back in England with the knowledge that volume 13 would be waiting at my doorstep.

I hope this quick insight was appreciated. If anyone has any memorable or interesting moments with *Excel Saga*, be sure to write to Oubliette and Mr. Ham. If anyone asks if any of these translated works has travelled to some of the unimaginable places in the world, you know what to say.

Sincerely
Amir Ghazi-Noory
United Kingdom



This is the very view Amir saw as he was reading *Excel Saga* Volume 12, of the sun setting in the Caspian Sea—technically, it's the world's largest lake, larger than all the U.S. Great Lakes put together—the outlet of the mighty Volga River flowing north, and home of the sturgeon that produce the world's best caviar.



Rather than a physical trapdoor, it would seem poor Excel has been figuratively cast down by Lord Il Palazza (who—at least, "this version" of him, seems to have shown no interest in her fate throughout Vol. 14). Copies of each English volume of *Excel Saga* are sent to its original publisher, Shonen Gahasta, and from thence to Mr. Koshi in the fabled City of F, so don't worry, there's a good chance he'll see this. (A "good chance"—we try to be honest here at Oubliette. We make no guarantees, save that we will always be hard to read.)

Route 66 is perhaps the most famous American highway of all time; starting in the 1920s, it ran from Chicago to Los Angeles. It was the first U.S. highway of such length to be completely paved, and for decades was associated with internal migration (and vacations) to the West. Existing as we are before metal chains and fast food franchises were so popular, Route 66 was also known for the local character of its gas stations, mom-and-pop stores, and roadside attractions as it passed through small towns and rural areas.

Although largely bypassed by the Interstate Highway System beginning in the 1950s and officially decommissioned in 1985, most of Route 66 still exists, and in the last twenty years its legend has remained alive as people seek out and travel along its old routes, as evidenced by Mr. McClanahan's artwork. The editor went to the Clement Colleges, whose northern border, Football Blvd., was part of the westernmost stretch of Route 66. The reader is assured he got his kicks on it.

country occupied by Nazi Germany, just as the Holocaust succeeded in part because so many ordinary citizens cooperated with it, the Danes showed it was possible to stand in its way when ordinary citizens resisted. My second Danish experience came oddly enough through anime, as one of my favorite directors, Mamoru Oshii, mentioned that he was a fan of Lars von Trier's TV series (released internationally as a film) *The Kingdom* and *The Kingdom II*, which is set in Copenhagen and involved the Danish staff of a mysterious hospital (well, mostly Danish—"Danskjyder!!!!"), which prompted me to see it. This is the same *Kingdom*, by the way, which directly inspired Steven King's 2004 American TV series *Kingdom Hospital*. Right, America, Iran, and Denmark. Let's get to Japan finally, shall we? ^_^

3.1: There are two sides to the running joke of character names in *Excel Saga*: one, that so many are local references to Fukuoka (see also 5.6, 5.7, 63.2, and 100.3 below), and two, that no Fukuokan in the story ever remarks on this. Now, what's interesting here is that while "Il Palazzo" has been called a foreign name (in Vol. 10) and Il Palazzo himself has been called foreign looking (in Vol. 15), the comment here in his resume that he studied abroad could be interpreted to mean that his public persona is nevertheless Japanese.

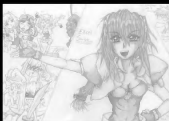
3.2: The document indicates that ILL headquarters is in the Chuo ward in central Fukuoka, and gives the name of its chairman and CEO as Il Palazzo (naturally) and its president as Excel (no name only). ILL's products are listed as including, but not limited to: home audio, cameras, TVs (including, interestingly, tube TVs, which one might think would be too primitive for ILL's technology), and semiconductors.

5.6: Iwata is going under the last name "Mitsukoshi" again—the alias Dr. Kabapu assigned him after his human body died. If it hasn't been mentioned here, the joke here is that there are department stores in Fukuoka named both "Iwatsuya" (yo has among its various meanings, "store" or "shop") and "Mitsukoshi." It is, therefore, another one of Dr. Kabapu's brilliant deceptions.

5.61/2: In the 1999 book *Japan Edge* (which, by amazing coincidence, the editor also contributed to), translator and author Yoji Doiki devotes several hundred words in his groundbreaking essay "Terrorist Manga" to the work Rikdo suggests you devour here. Macaroni Ho-Rensou (also romanized as *Macaroni Hourensou*—it means "Macaroni Spinach") by Tsuhame Kamagawa. Doiki writes with wonder of titles such as *Macaroni Hourensou* and others dating from the period of the late 1960s to late 70s, when adults had started to read manga in earnest, but before the medium had become respectable—or put another way, when manga still seemed dangerous. Kamagawa nearly lost his mind staying up five nights in a row to meet deadlines on *Macaroni*, an anarchic freestyle comedy that was the

The editor wouldn't say he grew all the way up in Iran, but definitely about a foot or so. Amir mentioned that the hotel he stayed at was in Nax, which is, or, at least, was, one of the nicer (i.e., not built of concrete) little towns on the sometimes overdeveloped Caspian coast. For about thirty miles to the west are some OK beaches, and so it's just over the Alborz mountains from Tehran (passing several ski resorts along the way, depending on route) it's popular for vacationers.

Now finally, before we get into the notes for Vol. 18, we have two more pieces of fan art, also from far away (although we're all pretty distant from Japan, so does it really matter?), drawn by Micki Johansson from Sønderborg, Denmark, population 27,000. Micki writes, "I've been in some of the big cities too, Copenhagen for instance (you probably knew that city since you've heard of Denmark), but it's too much 'city' for my taste though, I prefer where I live."



Just as with anime, I first heard of Denmark in Iran, where we had Danish neighbors. My mother told me about such things as the Danish collective effort to help their Jewish citizens escape the Nazis during WWII, even for those who were still caught and sent to the camps, the Danes made an effort to look after their welfare the best they could, through diplomatic channels and the Red Cross. By percentage, more Danish Jews survived the war than in any other

OUBLIETTE

Your EXCEL SAGA bonus section!

45.1: The caption below "MYNA REPORT" says *tsuzoku*, the standard phrase in TV and movies for "to be continued."

51.2: The sign is advertising parking at 300 yen an hour.

58.1: In the original, she said *ze mami ribanda!* (i.e., "the mama returned"), written out phonetically in hiragana.

63.2: The kanji in the name, "Teriho," that Miwa gives Excel (of course, Miwa may or may not know who Excel really is—if anyone, including herself, actually does) mean "glossy leaves." The name is a reference to the Teriho planned community that opened in Fukuoka in 2005 (www.teriho.com).

66-67: They may be lost in the center page fold, but the kanji on Iwata's T-shirt read, appropriately enough, "Electric-Powered Man."

69.2: Maizuru is in Chuo Ward, just like ILL headquarters.

70.4: These stickers, advertising suggestive phone conversation, escort services, sensual massage and other wink-wink, nudge-nudge lines of business, are commonly found in major Japanese cities. Interestingly, they often employ anime-style imagery even though they're not particularly directed at otaku. Come to think of it, there used to be an "authentic Asian massage" parlor in San Francisco that used a Takahashi-esque tile in its ads.

79.4: Who knew Matsuya was so morbid?

85.2: Umi is of course wearing one of the maid outfits from *Ne to Me Master*, which calls to mind the observation that Gainsax now makes the kind of anime they used to make fun of.

87.2: In the original, Miwa referred to Teriho as a *parasaito shinguru*, i.e., "parasite single," another example of the common Japanese practice of creating phrases based on borrowed foreign words. "Parasite single" is used to refer to unmarried grownup children who are still living with (and living off of) their parents.

96.4: The original chapter title was *Senshi no I*, or "A Warrior's Stomach." This Citizen Rich reference may have no place in *Excel Saga*, although in these troubled times, who can say?

100.3: The pinpoints (as it were) of *Excel Saga*'s in-jokes thus far is that ILL headquarters is apparently now located in the real-life ACR9S (Aerial Crossroads Over the Sea) Building that ACR9SS itself is named for. From the leaky basement below to the towering convention center above—truly Ha-don and Elgato have moved up like George and Weezy.

creator's attempt to "express the joy of rock through the medium of manga...I mean, there were a lot of strange bands back then. You'd never get bored with them. They'd wear outrageous outfits and make wonderful sounds, dance around like crazy. Someone once commented on how the '70s were a decade when you'd bump into uniqueness at every street corner. That's what it felt like..."

5.7: Watanabe here is giving them the last name of "Showa." Fukuoka has major avenues named both "Watanabe-Bori" (*dori* meaning "street") and "Showa Gori." Furthermore, Toru Watanabe's rarely mentioned first name, is written with the same kanji used to write *dori*. It's probably a good thing for both of them that their background stories were so inconceivable that ILL never even took too close a look at their cover names.

5.9: Note that "Mr. Showa's" background here sounds suspiciously cribbed from the 1979 film *Gamma vs. Jiger*.

9.1: The tags on the TV sets and air conditioners advertise them as new models with five-year warranties. Other signs promise a bag of rice to the first 199 customers, not to mention a special gift of "gold, silver, and pearl accessories." There's also a 70% off sale going on, and we are assured that 15% of your purchase will be credited as points.

11.3: The little sign with the little Roppo Matsui II on it reads "Umi's room."

26.1: This phrase is a bit of a classic, but I suppose every manga must use it at least once. I believe it's required in Article 62 of the postwar constitution.

39.2: The TV news banners, as you might expect, mention the Mayor's ouster and connection to the city corruption and embezzlement scandals.

42.1: It just so happens the editor has the issue of *Young King Ours* (October 2005) where this chapter originally ran, so it's interesting to observe that Rikdo went back and redrew this panel. Originally, Miwa *did* in fact say "Zero!" in the top panel, and the screen flashed another image from *Fatal Frame* (which, as you will recall, there were several jokes about in Vol. 14). Therefore, the "MDWA SOFT" logo with the child-Miwa must have been drawn for the graphic novel, although of course it's not uncommon (or unsurprising) that comic artists take the chance to go back and change a few things when their work gets collected.

44.2: The original subtitles were in Japanese, suggesting that this is supposed to be a foreign film, although the bridge in the top panel resembles the Rainbow Bridge in Tokyo.

bosa (makes quick calculation) 1976. Although limited computer networks did exist at this time, what we call the "Internet" today is often held to have started in the early 1980s when the U.S. National Science Foundation established a network for universities to link their systems via the now-standard TCP/IP protocol.

138.4: Tennenango's gesture of an extended baby finger signifies "my girlfriend."

143.2: There might have been some doubt before as to how much Umi's cosplay was just a (quite useless, of course) attempt to gain Shinouji's attention, but the way she sells doujinshi by the seashore here reveals her as a true otaku. The editor's recently gotten into Genshiken (checking it out from the library like a good citizen) but was mortified when he got to the part where Sasahara intended to become a manga editor—as offended as Miss Yukari in *Azumanga Daioh* when Chiyo suggested to Ikuka that she would make a good teacher. I'm convinced that Saki and Madarame, the true stars of the series, need to get together in a matter/entimatter relationship that will save Japan.

146.1-2: Umi and Teriha are cosplaying Cure White and Cure Black from *Futari wa Pretty Cure*, except Rikdo here has changed Umi's Cure White costume to black, and vice versa for Teriha. She is pretty *kawaii* here.

157.1: If you look closely, you'll see it's one of Rikdo Keshi's own doujinshi. He wonders it's hard for Umi to explain.

168.1: There's really no such thing as good soba, although maybe my bad impression comes more from that hideous cold broth it's often served with, the name of which is not suitable for a T+ title.

170.2: This is close to the original expression, which used the phrase *tsukakomai*—"tsukete" being a traditional drum, and "mai" meaning dance or dancing. It's just the sort of thing an old-fashioned, blood-vomiting girl like Hyatt might say.

170.5: Haha that despite Ha-chan's admonition not to panic, she is, in fact, pricking.

172.2: Hidetugu Anohi is a Japanese architect who became notorious recently after he was prosecuted for fabricating data and designing dozens of buildings to substandard earthquake safety levels due to cost-cutting pressures from his clients. The revelation shocked the whole country and caused great fear among those residents of his buildings; in December of 2006, Anohi was sentenced to five years in prison.

103.3: Melsaye is making a reference based on Alisa and Barbara Pessa's book *Why Men Don't Listen and Women Can't Read Maps: How We're Different and What to Do About It*, which has been translated into a number of languages, including, of course, Japanese.

103.4: *Okonomiyaki*, which can be translated as "cook what you like," is made with widely varying ingredients topped onto, or layered within, a grilled batter cake, and thus is sometimes compared to a pizza (although it isn't baked) or an omelet (although its batter contains as much flour as egg). A thick crepe might also be a good comparison. Despite *okonomiyaki* being made famous to foreign fans by Ukyo from *VIZ's Ranma 1/2*, the editor still hasn't had one.

104.4: There's something very manga about eating contests and challenges, and I suppose everyone should try this sort of thing at least once. The editor went to college in the Los Angeles area during a time his family lived in Houston, which meant many road trips back and forth, 1500 miles each way, across the American Southwest. The sights through Arizona and New Mexico consist mostly of state prisons and nuclear power plants, but once you get a little into Texas (a little by Texas standards—about 100 miles), you hit the not inappropriately named town of Van Horn, where you have the opportunity to eat a 12-inch burger for free, provided you do it in under an hour. I did it, but I was younger then. Howd'ya Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, is building an *Amazon-to-Go* spaceship near Van Horn for the launch of his planned New Shepard manned rocket, so the dreams of youth may return again (Mr. McClanahan, in case you're wondering, this isn't an Excel-like confused memory with the Big Texan Steak House's 72-oz. steak challenge, which used to be on route 66 and is now on Highway 40—although they might have hedged tourists would be confused ^_^)

112.2: Takeru Kobayashi, of course, is the top-ranked world champion competitive eater. In 2004 he ate 53 hot dogs within twelve minutes at Nathan's in Coney Island in New York (technically, it was fifty-three and three quarters). Like Iwata, he's somewhat actually skinny-looking, and like Iwata, he can expand his stomach downward to unusual lengths.

117.5: The Kanji projecting from Iwata's head means "man," no doubt suggesting Iwata's resolve (although he's technically not a man anymore, he still possesses manly resolve). 126.3: *Okonomiyaki* sauce does in fact smell and taste much like Worcestershire sauce. For some reason, I think it works better as a punchline if you don't know that. Maybe it's the relief that the odor wasn't something rather more dreadful.

132.1: This story first appeared in the January 2006 issue of *Young King Ours* magazine, so thirty years ago would have

OUBLIETTE

Your *EXCEL SAGA* bonus section!

This installment was of "Dublette" was brought to you by Loveless—not the one with the cat ears, but the one by My Bloody Valentine.

EXCEL SAGA

103.1: Elgala isn't exactly putting two and two together here, is she? To be fair, Excel herself dismissed Rappamitsu (as just unusually heavy on both of the occasions she encountered "her." Perhaps the traditional malnutrition of Excel's lifestyle simply made her assume that citizens not fighting for the cause must weigh more.

104.A: You could say that zoni soup is technically chicken vegetable with rice, but this isn't your canned (or "lined," for our not inconsiderable Sainsbury's-shopping reader-ship) Western style, where everything's in little bits, but rather the Japanese soup style with sliced ingredients in broth you can eat with chopsticks. A traditional New Year's dish as you might guess, zoni soup sometimes has a *mise* base in Fukuoka, and contains *mochi* (small cakes of pressed, sticky rice), chicken thigh meat, *hakasai* (Chinese cabbage), leek, carrot, and mushroom, with other variants. Interestingly, zoni soup is sometimes claimed to be a descendant of the meals samurai would cook up in field kitchens when camped for battle!

105.1: In case you didn't know by now, the logo on the wall behind Dr. Kabapu's former control chair (first seen in Vol. 09) is the city emblem of Fukuoka, which (when in good health) Dr. Kabapu's hair of course resembles.

150.1: Don't worry, *Excel Saga* definitely continues in the next volume. Rikdo is just having a little fun—as he is wont to do.

150i: On the back cover of the original Japanese Vol. 16 (under the slipcover) was the same panel as 146.1—only with the costume colors now reversed to be "correct" for Cure Black, and Teri's dialogue changed from "... and ...um" to "Fu..." "Fujoshi?" The first "Fu," spelled in hiragana, is perhaps meant to suggest she starts to say "Futari wa Pretty Cure?" "Fujoshi," however, is spelled with kanji that are often translated "rotten women" or "rotten girls." This is a play on *fujoshi*, an identically pronounced but differently spelled respectable word for "women" or "girls." The "rotten" spelling is sometimes used by female otaku, especially fans of yaoi, to describe themselves—the "rotten" referring to their aesthetic corruption. In the editor's opinion, the term might actually be better translated into English as "Decadent women, female, girl!"—"Decadent," with a capital "D," being how the Aesthetic movement, associated with Oscar Wilde, was sometimes also labeled. What makes this an intriguing idea is that the word "decadent" is derived from the medieval Latin *decadentia*, meaning "decay," i.e., rottenness. Presumably Teri's using *fujoshi* here to refer to Umi's friends: the old Excel would have knocked these presents cold for daring to lay their mitts on her.